

Ponte Vedra Recorder



February 22, 2018
Volume 47, No. 59
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

CROSSWATER AT NOCATEE



GRAND OPENING

Crosswater at Nocatee recently hosted a grand opening event for the public, as well as a VIP event for realtors. Flip to page 38 within our Business Weekly Featuring Distinctive Properties section for more information and photos.

Photo courtesy of Nocatee Ponte Vedra
www.nocatee.com

Community News

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In the Arts

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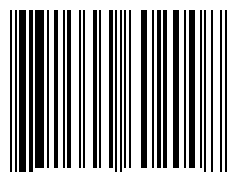
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Send us your news

We welcome submissions of photos, stories, columns and letters to the editor. Let us know what's happening.

E-mail submissions to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

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

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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

***Note: No readers correctly identified last week's photo.**

ADOPT A PET



CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Jerry, and I am a 2-year-old male cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at the time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41408



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Gigi, and I am a 4-year-old female dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there

may be some traits that are unknown at the time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41316

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

Cat adoptions at the St. Johns County Pet Center are \$30 for males and \$40 for females. Dog adoptions are \$45 for males and \$60 for females. Adoption fees include microchipping, neutering/spaying, rabies vaccinations and shots. The pet center is located at 130 N. Stratton Road off U.S. 1 between County Road 210 and International Golf Parkway. Business hours are Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed to the public on Sunday. On Monday, the office is open by appointment only to claim a lost pet. For more information, please call the **St. Johns County Pet Center at (904) 209-6190.**

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

A	B	H	O	R	G	E	L	S	P	E	D	
C	R	O	R	E	A	N	Y	G	I	R	L	Y
T	A	P	A	S	I	S	M	R	A	I	S	E
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D	O	C	S	S	I	S	D	I	N	E	D	

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

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

THEY'RE BACK
MARCH
2018



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ZOO
AND GARDENS

JACKSONVILLEZOO.ORG



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Extraordinary Views in Epping Forrest

The only home that sits atop the bluff next to the exquisite DuPont Mansion, this home shares the same breathtaking views of the formal gardens, the Marina & the St. Johns river. In addition to the 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and 2 fireplaces, this home has an extra-large bonus room that is plumbed for an additional bath & could be configured into 2 more bedrooms & a bath or game room, + a bedroom and a bath. **\$1,395,000**



Rare Opportunity Providing Multiple Panoramic Views!

Built on one of the few waterfront corner lots in the exclusive Harbour Island, this private Mediterranean home was designed with the intracoastal waterway as the defining element. Avid navigators welcome as there is an existing 40' boat slip adjoining the property. **\$1,895,000**



Open and Spacious Floorplan!

This home, situated on a very private lot that backs up to the woods, is not only energy efficient but has wonderful features throughout. The recently renovated patio area provides the best in outdoor living perfect to host gatherings or simply enjoy intimate meals with loved ones. **\$750,000**



Steps from Ponte Vedra Beaches

Do you enjoy listening to the ocean waves while you relax with a glass of wine? This first-floor unit is steps away from Ponte Vedra beaches as well as The Lodge & Club, an exceptional resort with dining, fitness, and several pools. **\$650,000**



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Jim Zeller - 904.473.1168 - JimZeller@WatsonRealtyCorp.com | Linda Ostoski - 904.473.1515 - LindaOstoski@WatsonRealtyCorp.com



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Photo by Benjamin Naim

Police block off the Palm Valley Outdoors parking lot on Feb. 19 after a man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Man dies of self-inflicted gunshot wound in local business parking lot

By Benjamin Naim

A man died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in the Palm Valley Outdoors parking lot Monday, Feb. 19, according to a police report provided by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

The report states that the subject shot himself while standing outside near his vehicle, which had a Georgia license plate. Eyewitnesses told deputies that they heard a gunshot in the parking lot before seeing the subject on the ground. He was pronounced deceased at 2:20 p.m., the SJSO police report revealed.

The Palm Valley Outdoors parking lot remained blocked off with crime scene tape after the incident as deputies investigated the matter; the restaurant was closed at the time. There was no evidence of foul play at the scene.

Anyone struggling with severe depression or suicidal thoughts should contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255 to seek immediate counsel. The hotline is available 24-hours per day. Those seeking an online peer support-group community can visit [Reddit.com/r/SuicideWatch](https://www.reddit.com/r/SuicideWatch).

Kelly Barrera to seek re-election to St. Johns County School Board

St. Johns County School Board Vice Chair Kelly Barrera will seek re-election as the District 4 School Board representative in this year's elections.

Barrera said she is running for re-election to ensure that academic excellence continues to be the hallmark of the St. Johns County School System, which for the past nine years has been the No. 1-rated school district in the state of Florida.

"Our wonderful A-rated schools are one of the many reasons families move to St. Johns County," said Barrera, whose district includes Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Palencia and parts of St. Augustine. "If re-elected to the St. Johns County School Board, I will focus my efforts on advancing the educational excellence, extracurricular programs and support services that make our schools the best in the state."

Barrera said her experience serving on the school board, combined with her more than two decades of active engagement in the county's education system, have given her experience with and insight into the challenges and opportunities facing the St. Johns County schools.

"I recognize no system is perfect; however, I am anchored and invested in the success of our students and schools," she said. "I am committed to continuing to improve the academic excellence and further educational opportunities for all our students and schools, and I will continue to advocate for our students and challenge our system to provide the best learning environment to meet the needs of students across all spectrums, learning styles and interests."

As a regional manager for Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Barrera understands the importance of offering St. Johns County students a rigorous academic experience that will prepare them for higher education, emerging technologies and the 21st-century workforce.

"With 39 schools, 40,000 students and a budget of \$315 million, the St. Johns County School System is larger than most businesses – and managing it requires the ability to balance the best interests of our students within financial constraints," Barrera said. "Drawing on my business and financial management background, I will be a good steward of taxpayers' dollars while working to ensure that



Kelly Barrera

our students receive the resources they need to learn, grow and excel."

In addition to serving on the school board, Barrera has served as a board member of the St. Augustine-St. Johns County Airport Authority, serving as both chairman and treasurer and overseeing multimillion dollar budgets.

Building for the future

"That financial experience will be crucial," Barrera said, "as the St. Johns County School System struggles to keep pace with the tremendous growth the county has seen in the past decade."

During her term on the school board, Barrera oversaw the construction and opening of three new elementary schools. Two additional new K-8 schools are currently under construction.

If re-elected, Barrera would advocate for the construction of a new high school to handle the growing student population. In particular, she noted, the myriad of new housing communities currently under construction along the 210 West corridor makes a new high school critical.

"As a school board, our primary goal is to offer our students the highest quality education possible," she said. "We are fortunate in St. Johns County to have some of the best teachers in the state, but it is critical that we have adequate space and the facilities to safely and comfortably accommodate all our students. As District 4 representative on the school board, I will draw on the partnerships I have developed with state and local government, education officials and others to secure the funding needed to build a new high school."

A Ponte Vedra Beach resident for more than 25 years, Barrera is a graduate of Jacksonville University, where she was the first female graduate of the aviation program. She and her husband, Gil Barrera, are the parents of two adult children, both of whom have attended and volunteered in the local schools and community. For more information on Barrera, visit www.kellybarrera.com.

County Commission candidates to speak at Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meeting

By Samantha Logue

With four contenders currently vying for the soon-to-be vacant District 4 seat on the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, voters will have no shortage of options come election day. To help them stay informed, the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition has invited candidates Dick Williams (R.), Jeremiah Blocker (R.), Erika Alba (R.) and Catherine Hawkinson Guevarra (D.) to speak at its next meeting Monday, Feb. 26.

"The idea came about because we feel strongly that our community should have a voice when it comes to election day," Coalition Chair Lisa Cook said. "Often times, getting to know the candidates running for the various offices can be difficult and time-consuming, and the breadth of our knowledge can be limited to the advertising campaigns that pile up in our mailboxes. We wanted to give the community time to learn about who is running and to have time to get involved."

Each month, the Coalition meets at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library to address matters of local concern. Although primarily attended by representatives from local homeowners' associations, all Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meetings are open to the public.

At the upcoming meeting, according to Cook, those in attendance will have the opportunity to learn more about each candidate's background, qualifications and platform. Though all four candidates were invited to speak, however, only Williams and Blocker have confirmed their participation as of yet.

"Cathy Guevarra is a full-time teacher and is unable to make any daytime functions," Cook explained. "I have not heard back from Erika Alba."

While the meeting will not offer the candidates an opportunity to field questions from the audience, Cook

St. Johns County seeks solution as concern rises over beach erosion

By Samantha Logue

Following two consecutive years of devastating hurricane damage, residents of northern St. Johns County have found themselves facing a coastal crisis. With some homes collapsing onto the beaches already and others in danger of following suit, residents and elected officials alike are desperately seeking a solution, but it's beginning to look like one won't come easy.

"We had hired a coastal engineer and he surveyed our beach," said Lori Moffett, a leader of the Save Ponte Vedra Beach initiative. "What he determined is we've lost 135 feet of width out of our beach since 1972 and about 80 feet since the 1980s. That equates to 2.5 million cubic yards of sand, which is equal to about 170,000 truckloads of sand. So, the problem predates Matthew and Irma. It's been going on for decades, and the bottom line is we're in a net loss position every year. The beach will not be rebuilt naturally."

Although the problem is easy enough to identify, with less than four months before the start of the next hurricane season, the county is running short on time to find an answer.

"It's all about funding," Moffett said. "You can't truck in almost 200,000 trucks of sand, so you have to dredge from the ocean. The coastal engineer has found a dredging site that's 5 miles off the coast of Ponte Vedra, so where we are right now is trying to find the money. We've been working with the county, and what they've proposed is raising the bed tax from 4 to 5 percent. That would free up over \$2 million a year for the St. Johns County coastline."

The bed tax, formally known as the tourist development tax, is a charge on the revenue from short-term accommodation rentals of six months or less. According to the Florida Department of Revenue, most of Florida's 67 counties currently impose a bed tax of 5 percent or higher. While in St. Johns the bed tax is 4 percent, neighboring Flagler and Clay counties tax residents at 5 percent, and in Duval County the tax is as high as 6 percent.

While there are limitations to how bed tax dollars can be spent, it is not unheard of for some of those funds to be designated for use in beach renour-



Photo courtesy of Kitty Switkes

A photo taken in early January of the 900 Block of Ponte Vedra Boulevard shows erosion of the beaches.

ishment. In fact, some of St. Johns County's bed tax dollars are already allocated towards renourishment in St. Augustine Beach. In this case, the proposed 1 percent tax increase would help to fund restoration of St. Johns County's northern beaches – from Vilano Beach to Ponte Vedra Beach.

On Feb. 6, the proposal was reviewed and discussed at a meeting of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners.

"Our beaches are probably our most important natural asset not only from an environmental, but also an economic standpoint," said Commission Chair Henry Dean. "We need to give immediate attention to our critical beach erosion that we have learned about. We have a crisis, and we have I think only one way out, and the first step is to increase the bed tax by 1 cent."

Other commissioners were less certain that the tax increase was the county's best path forward, however.

"I agree we have a catastrophe," Commissioner Jimmy Johns said. "What I need to know is more details as to how we achieve the intended goal."

Ultimately, in a 4-1 vote, the com-

missioners voted to move the process forward and obtain a recommendation from the Tourist Development Council on the proposal, after which the commissioners will vote once more on the proposal, with at least a 4-1 majority needed to approve and implement the tax increase. Commissioner Jeb Smith, the lone dissenting vote, advised the Recorder that he intends to discuss the proposal personally with residents next week.

While supporters of the proposal are hopeful that it will eventually be approved, an increase in the bed tax may not be the only avenue for beach renourishment funding. The budget deal President Donald Trump signed earlier this month, for instance, approved nearly \$90 billion in disaster relief for those impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, as well as the recent California wildfires.

Whatever the funding source, however, with yet another potentially disastrous hurricane season on the horizon, most can agree that the need for a solution is pressing.

"We don't have an option," Moffett said. "This has to get done."

"This will be a great opportunity to get to know the candidates, see their backgrounds and what issues are of importance to them," Cook said. "The more people that get involved, the more people that will vote, and the better representation we will have for our community on the county level."

with our group and introduce themselves," she added.

The Feb. 26 Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition meeting will be held at 10 a.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 101 Library Blvd., and those who are interested in attending are encouraged to do so.

Candidates

Continued from 4

said that the Coalition does plan to host such a forum closer to the election.

"We would also like to ask the District 4 School Board candidates to speak

MSD Board delegates areas of responsibility

By Jon Blauvelt

At the Feb. 12 Ponte Vedra Beach Municipal Service District (MSD) board meeting, Chairman Gary Jurenovich assigned areas of responsibility to his fellow trustees for 2018.

Trustee Greg Wong, who has decided not to run for re-election, will close out his term managing communications. Trustee Kitty Switkes will assist Wong with communications and take on the MSD's relationship with JEA. Over the past year, Switkes has overseen landscaping and beach renourishment.

Trustee Brad Wester will retain his responsibility of maintaining the MSD's beach accesses and will also manage the district's relationship with Beaches Energy. In addition to beach accesses, Wester was responsible for JEA over the past year.

Vice Chairman John Cellucci will continue managing the MSD's relationship with Republic Services and will add landscaping to his plate. Trustee Murle Harrison will oversee Road and Bridge, and Treasurer John Wegl will oversee the MSD's finances.

Jurenovich will continue to manage the district's relationship with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and oversee anything to do with the community's street signs.

In a phone interview after the MSD meeting, Jurenovich told the Recorder that beach renourishment will be collectively managed by the board moving forward.

"The MSD and all of the trustees need to be more involved in the beach renourishment program to coordinate together," he said. "Anything going on with beach renourishment will be a discussion by the board."

OBITUARIES

Marland Benner

Marland E. Benner Jr., 92, of Jacksonville, died Feb. 5, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Mildred Hanna

Mildred Hanna, 95, of Jacksonville Beach, died Feb. 13, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

John Zayat

John Zayat III, 57, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 7, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Lucia Miller is the tourism coordinator for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division.

Lucia Miller

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please tell us about your background?

I moved to the United States from Slovakia with my family in 1997. I have lived here in Jacksonville ever since. I attended Fletcher Middle and Fletcher High School and received a bachelor's degree in communications from UNF. I started working for the Chamber right after and have been here for six years.

What's a typical day like for you at the Chamber?

The Chamber of Commerce is an excellent resource for networking opportunities. A majority of my time is devoted to performing administrative duties and planning the networking events. I work closely with the communications manager to maintain the Chamber's website, social media and newsletters. I am also tasked with assisting the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, which is one of the Chamber's biggest events of the year in the Ponte Vedra community. Lastly, what a lot of people may not know is that our Ponte Vedra Beach Division office is also a Visitor's Center. We offer a lot of information for visitors and those who relocate to our area. My job is to make sure that the visitor has a pleasant experience in Ponte Vedra.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Working at the Chamber gives me the opportunity to learn more about people in this community. Through numerous networking events, I meet many people and build great relationships. I also enjoy seeing new business grow and succeed.

What do you enjoy most about living on the First Coast?

A warm, sunny climate is one of many reasons I enjoy the First Coast. This northeast beach community has a strong connection to nature and to the coast as well, with many parks providing walking, biking trails, dog walking and beach access. I love the small-town feel! You can hop on a beach cruiser and ride down to the beach with the family. Also, the Beaches has a great family-friendly ambiance.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I love to travel with my husband Max and explore different parts of the world and their culture. I love to be outdoors! I also enjoy photography and capturing special moments of my family and friends and mostly our 7-month-old son Brody. I love watching him grow.

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division office and Ponte Vedra Beach Visitors Center is located at 200 Solana Road, Suite B.



Ponte Vedra Community Association holds annual Valentine's Dance

More than 250 members of the Ponte Vedra Community Association (PVCA) attended the group's annual Valentine's Dance on Friday, Feb. 2, at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.

Attendees enjoyed a dinner buffet, which included delicacies of cheeses, fruits and hot appetizers, and a main course of hand-carved meats with accompaniments and finished off with a dessert bar. Entertainment was provided by local group Cloud 9. Attendees who brought their invitations were included in a door-prize drawing for baskets donated by board and committee members.

Fourteen baskets were given away, including an Italian night, game night, romantic night at home and wine with chocolates.

Minna Barnes, the association's oldest member at 104 years old, was also in attendance. Others in attendance were event chair Barbara Roberts and board members Jane Lucker, Jane Rollinson and Brad Smith.

The Ponte Vedra Community Association strives to build a sense of community and preserve the unique qualities that make Ponte Vedra Beach a great place to live.

To learn more or to join, visit www.pontevedraca.org.



Photos courtesy of Jane Rollinson

Attendees enjoy the festivities at the Ponte Vedra Community Association's annual Valentine's Dance on Feb 2., at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club.



Minna Barnes (left), the Ponte Vedra Community Association's oldest member at 104



PVCA board members Jane Rollinson (from left) and Brad Smith, and event chair Barb Roberts

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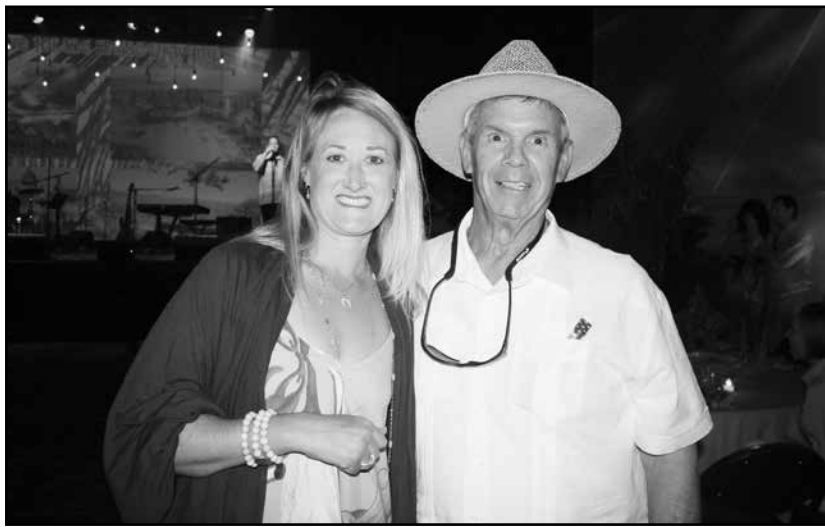
North Island at Marsh Landing
 Meticulously maintained 6BR, 6BA, & Study pool home. Gourmet granite, gas & SS kitchen, butler pantry w/2nd Bosch dishwasher & ice maker, wine room & walk-in bar, huge family room views pool & acres of pristine marsh. 4-car garage. 370 Royal Tern Rd S \$1,595,000



Waterfront in Harbour Island
 Mediterranean villa with 6,786 sf of living area built like a fortress on a gorgeous bulk-headed lake. 6 BRs, 9 full & 2 half BAs, study, media & game rooms. 3 staircases + elevator, screened patio, pool & spa. 60 ft. dock in yacht basin. 117 Newport Ln \$2,900,000

2016 trip raffle winner Emily Rhodin and 2017 winner John Drake pose for a photo at the 2017 Mineral City Celebration.

Photo by Jennifer Logue



'World is Not Enough' vacation raffle to highlight PVB Rotary Club's 007-themed Mineral City Celebration

A chance to win a luxury vacation to Hawaii, Ireland, Tuscany, Australia or Rome will be just one of the highlights of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's James Bond-themed Mineral City Celebration.

Tickets for "The World is Not Enough" trip raffle are now available online at www.mineralcitycelebration.com. Tickets are \$100 each or five tickets for \$400. The winner will be able to choose from five exotic destinations: Hawaii, Ireland, Tuscany, Rome or Australia. All trips include roundtrip airfare for two, luxury accommodations and more. Full descriptions on each trip are available on the Mineral City Celebration website.

The winner of the raffle will be announced live at the Mineral City Celebration; the winner does not need to be present to win.

To be held Saturday, April 7 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse, this year's Mineral



Logo courtesy of Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

City Celebration event is called "Titanium Night" – a nod to Ponte Vedra Beach's mining past – and will feature a James Bond theme, complete with martinis – shaken, not stirred – delicious refreshments, entertainment, a silent auction, wine raffle and more. The 2018 Mineral City event will also feature the presentation of the annual "Rock of the Community Award" to Ponte Vedra Beach residents Gary and Nancy Chartrand in recognition of their many philanthropic

contributions to the local community.

The Mineral City Celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds from the event benefit more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations and charities.

To purchase raffle tickets, celebration tickets or for more information, visit www.mineralcitycelebration.com.

'Casino Night on the Greens' fundraiser to benefit Ayla's Acres, feature M*A*S*H* actress Loretta Swit

Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue's third annual gala, "Casino Night on the Greens," will take place March 10 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse and be hosted by M*A*S*H* actress Loretta Swit.

To be held from 6 to 11 p.m., Casino Night on the Greens will raise funds for the nonprofit's Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center project. The event will feature Texas Hold 'Em poker, slot machines, blackjack, roulette and craps. The "funny money" winnings will go toward raffle tickets to win items donated by local businesses. The event will also feature quick-fire raffles, dancing, heavy hors d'oeuvres, desserts, a full bar and live entertainment provided by Little Jake and The Soul Searchers.

Swit has been nominated for and has won Emmy awards; the People's Choice Award; the Golden Globes awards; The Sarah Siddons Award and a Lifetime Career Achievement Award from the Ft. Lauderdale Film Festival. Swit served as creative consultant and host of the series, "Those Incredible Animals," on the Discovery Channel, and has received the Betty White Award by Actors and Others for Animals for her efforts. She just released the book, "SWIT-HEART: The Watercolour Artistry & Animal Activism of Loretta Swit," and will be signing copies of the book at the gala, with 100 percent of the book sale proceeds going to Swit's Switheart Foundation.

"This is our third Loretta Swit and Friends Gala," Ayla's Acres Execu-

tive Director Fran Charlson said. "It's an important component in making Peter's Friends a reality. Events such as this will make that possible. This event is going to be a terrific evening of fun and entertainment. You won't want to miss it"

Tickets cost \$125 and include two drink tickets (beer and wine), \$1,500 in "funny money," one raffle ticket, heavy hors d'oeuvres, dancing and live entertainment. Tickets are available for purchase online at www.aylasacres.org/events, by calling (904) 325-3554 or at Ayla's Acres Thrift Shop located at 142 King St. in St. Augustine. Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra will offer discounted rooms for people attending the event; call (650) 520-5201 for more information. There are a limited number of rooms available.

Ayla's Acres No-Kill Animal Rescue, Inc. is a St. Augustine-based nonprofit supporting adoption, spay and neuter and responsible care of animals. Along with education, outreach, adoption, and fostering programs, Ayla's Acres maintains a 45-acre sanctuary where "unadoptable" animals can live out their lives in peace. The organization is currently raising money to build the St. Johns County-based Peter's Friends Animal Resource Center, which will serve as an adoption facility, low/no-cost spay and neuter clinic and education and outreach center. Ayla's Acres receives no government funding, relying instead on private grants and donations of money, supplies, and items that are sold through its thrift shop.

UNF HOLDS FOOD FORT COMPETITION TO BENEFIT LEND-A-WING PANTRY

The Food Fort competition, held annually during Homecoming Week to raise awareness and generate support for the University of North Florida's (UNF) Lend-A-Wing Pantry, was held Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Osprey Plaza, outside of the Student Union. Students collected canned goods and non-perishable items and competed in teams to build a structure with their provisions. Points were awarded in several categories including number of items, creativity and use of the "Nest Fest" theme. After the competition, items were donated to Lend-A-Wing Pantry, a student-run agency designed to combat food insecurity and provide basic essentials to students in need.

Photos courtesy of Amanda Dawson/University of North Florida



Biannual book sale set for March 13-17 at PVB Branch Library

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library will host its bi-annual book sale March 13-17 at the Ponte Vedra Library.

Proceeds from the book sale will support the following:

- **More materials for all ages**, including multiple formats (print, audiobook, e-book) of youth award list titles such as ALA Youth Media Awards (Caldecott,

Newbery, etc.), Sunshine State Young Readers Award Juniors (grades K-2), SSYRAs for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8, Florida Teens Read (grades 9-12) and Florida Readers Association Children's Book Award (pre-K – grade two).

- **Special programming** such as the Musical Madness for Kids series with the Jacksonville Symphony, Sisterhood of the Traveling Plants events, gaming events for

teens, magic shows, St. Johns Reads and more.

- **Special spaces** for youth through the purchase of furniture, display units, checkers/chess tables, early literacy station computers, repainting, Lego/train/puzzle tables, board games and more.

- **Longtime popular series** for adults presented by the Friends such as the Gerson Yessin Music Series, Adventures in

the Arts series, Book Talk Café series and Ponte Vedra Forum series.

The library will host a preview sale for Friends of the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library members March 13 featuring hors d'oeuvres, wine and access to the book sale before everyone else. For more information, call (904) 827-6950. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.

Author John Capouya to be featured at Ponte Vedra Library's Book Talk Café

Author John Capouya will be on hand to talk about his book, "Florida Soul: From Ray Charles to KC and the Sunshine Band," at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library's Book Talk Café Feb. 26 at 6:30 p.m.

Capouya's book tells the story of the musical upbringing of Ray Charles in Florida, where he wrote his first songs and made his first recordings. It highlights the careers of Pensacola singers James and Bobby Purify and their producer, Papa Don Schroeder. "Florida Soul" reveals how Hank Ballard created his international hit song "The Twist" after seeing the dance in Tampa, and it profiles Gainesville singer Linda Lindell ("What a Man"). Miami's Overtown and Liberty City neighborhoods produced Sam Moore of the duo Sam and Dave, Willie Clarke and Johnny Pearsall of Deep City Records and singer Helene Smith.



Photo courtesy of Vic DiGenti

John Capouya

Capouya teaches journalism and nonfiction narrative at the University of Tampa. He mentors students in UT's Lowresidency Creative Writing MFA program, and works with private writing clients. During his journalism career, he worked as an editor for Newsweek and SmartMoney magazines, New York Newsday and the New York Times. "Florida Soul" is his third book.

This event, taking place at the Ponte Vedra Library at 101 Library Blvd., is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served, and Capouya will sign copies of his book at the conclusion of his presentation.

Hope at Hand inviting local students to participate in annual poetry contest

All high school students are invited to be an active part of the third annual Jax Poetry Fest.

Each April, Hope at Hand hosts a poetry festival to celebrate National Poetry Month. Students may submit one poem of no more than 15 lines on any subject and in any style except concrete or blackout poetry. The content of the poem must not be vulgar, offensive or contain profanity.

The contest is open to both public and private high school students, and poems must be original, individual work of the entrant. Go to hopeathand.org to apply and submit by March 9, 2018.

Hope at Hand is a 501(c)(3) charity

that provides poetry lessons for at-risk youth populations in North Florida. Founded by veteran educator Steffani Hendricks Fletcher in 2009, Hope at Hand combines poetry and art to help youth process life, love and progress in a changing world.

Hope at Hand partners with over 15 youth agencies in North Florida. The organization's programming instills confidence and independence while improving social connections and emotional growth through poetry.

To make a donation or to learn more about Hope at Hand and its partners, visit www.HopeatHand.org. Hope at Hand is registered with The United Way of Northeast Florida.

Cultural Center selling windchimes handcrafted by local student to help children with special needs

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is selling handcrafted wind chimes made by local high school student Claire Fodor, and all proceeds will support the nonprofit's Sound Connections music therapy program for children with special needs.

"We are very fortunate to have young students like Claire who care for our community," said Donna Guzzo, CCPVB's executive director. "This is a good example of getting involved to help children with special needs. We are making a call to action to all Ponte Vedra residents to join us in supporting music therapy by purchasing one of these beautiful wind chimes."

Sound Connections is an outreach program conducted by the Cultural Center that brings board certified music therapists to local area schools, including Cunningham Creek Elementary School, PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School, Ocean Palms Elementary School and Valley Ridge Academy. These therapists have over 600 contacts a week with children with special needs.

To purchase wind chimes, visit the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach at



Photo courtesy of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

50 Executive Way, call (904) 280-0614 or visit www.ccpvb.org.

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization dedicated to bringing the arts into the life of the community through arts education, exhibition, outreach and by honoring a donor-driven philosophy.

SJR State opens registration for upcoming summer courses

Registration for St. Johns River State College's summer sessions is underway.

Three sessions will be offered, with Summer classes to be held from May 9-Aug. 10, Summer A classes from May 9-June 22 and Summer B classes from June 27-Aug. 10.

Orientation is required for all new students before registering for classes. Orientation details will be provided to students once their college application has been processed.

The last day to apply for admission for the Summer and Summer A terms is May 1, and the last day to register is May 8.

The last day to apply for the Summer B term is June 19, and the last day to register is June 26. Students are encouraged to apply early.

The course schedule for all summer sessions is available online at SJRstate.edu/courses.html.

For more information regarding registration and courses offered, contact your local campus at the numbers listed below or visit the SJR State website at SJRstate.edu.

Palatka campus: (386) 312-4200

Orange Park campus: (904) 276-6800

St. Augustine campus: (904) 808-7400

St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department announces summer camp lottery registration dates

The St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department has announced the theme and lottery registration dates for Summer Camp 2018, which will be open to resident children ages 5 to 12 and run from June 4 through July 20 at six county locations.

“Be a Superhero!” will feature outdoor activities, field trips, arts and crafts and swimming. The camp’s lottery registration is open March 5 at 8 a.m. through March 16 at 5 p.m. with names drawn at random on March 26. Results of the drawing will be mailed out no later than April 1.

Be a Superhero! Summer Camp 2018 will be led by local staff at six locations around the county including Davis Park Field House in Ponte Vedra, Ketterlinus Gym in Downtown St. Augustine, Plantation Park in St. Johns, Solomon Calhoun Community Center in West Augustine, Trout Creek in Mill Creek and W.E. Harris Community Center in Hastings.

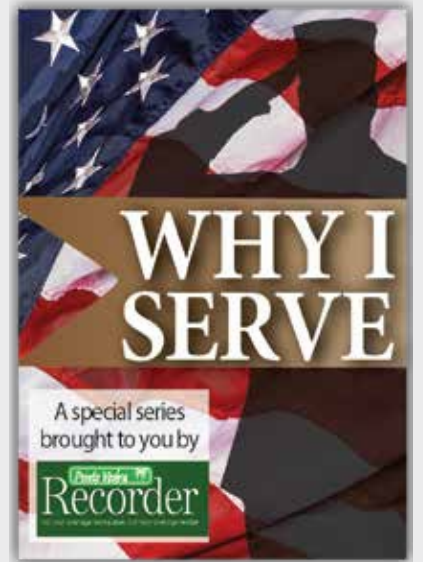
“We’re excited to be in our 20th year hosting an affordable, educational and fun summer camp for county residents,” said Jamie Baccari, community programs manager for the Parks & Recreation Department. “This year’s theme, Be a Superhero!, is all about teaching kids to be a leader, be brave, be honest and be an example.”



Camp fees are \$410 per child with reduced rates available upon qualification. Camp starts on June 4 and ends on July 20. Camp hours are Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For details and registration, please visit www.sjcfl.us/youth or contact Brian James at (904) 209-0365 or bjames@sjcfl.us.



Photos courtesy of St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department



Why I serve

The Ponte Vedra Recorder is excited to introduce Why I Serve, a video series highlighting veterans and active service members of the U.S. military that reveals why they ultimately decided to serve and what the experience provided for them.

Watch a snippet of the first piece on the Ponte Vedra Recorder Facebook page or the full version online at www.PonteVedraRecorder.com.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for Why I Serve; any interested parties should contact Ben@OPCFLA.com for more information.

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Parks & Recreation Department and University of St. Augustine partner on senior fitness program

The St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Department is partnering with the University of St. Augustine to conduct a free adult fitness program called "Fitness in the Park."

The program is six weeks long and designed for individuals ages 60 and up. Fitness in the Park will run once a week with two sessions every Wednesday. The 1:30-2:30 p.m. session is geared towards seniors who would like more information on or who have diabetes or pre-diabetes. The 2:30-3:30 pm session is for all other senior participants.

Fitness in the Park runs Wednesday, Feb. 21 through Wednesday, March 28 at Canopy Shores Park at 804 Christina Drive in St. Augustine. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for "Fitness in the Park." For more information, contact AyoLane Halusky at (904) 209-0348 or ahalusky@sjcfl.us.



Photos courtesy of Parks & Recreation Department

Visitors and Convention Bureau Employee of the Year Awards announced

The St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau recently recognized the finalists in the 2017 St. Johns County hospitality and tourism industry Employee of the Year awards.

Each winner was recognized at his or her place of business in a celebration with their co-workers. Top awards were given in five categories: lodging, attractions, restaurant, retail and government, with 23 individuals recognized for their service in the tourism industry.

Taking home the top award in the accommodations category was Arielle Crooms with Fairfield Inn & Suites St. Augustine I-95. In the attractions category, Laura Johnson of the St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum was the top award winner. Theresa Letterman of the City of St. Augustine won the top award in the government category. In the retail category, Robin Lousteau of the Colonial Quarter Outpost received the top award, and Dean Campbell of Casa Monica Resort & Spa captured the top award in the restaurant category.

Other nominees included Kelly Durham with Beachers Lodge; Gillen Durling with Casa Monica Resort & Spa; Hector Her-

nandez with Beachers Lodge; John Hoot with Casa Monica Resort & Spa; Marieleona Scibelli with Howard Johnson Historic; Allie Schukay with Casa Monica Resort & Spa; Jeffrey Taylor with Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa; Jill Ursini with Beachers Lodge; Corley Chapman with The Tasting Tours; Robert Hebert with World Golf Hall of Fame; Michelle Powers with ZIPStream's Castaway Canopy Adventure; Angie Rose with Colonial Quarter; Kelly Lawrence with Casa Monica Resort & Spa; AJ Gruber with Colonial Oak Music Park; Jack Hill with Casa Monica Resort & Spa; Jason Pilacek with Taberna del Cabello; Max Rusch with Bull & Crown Publik House; and John Whitworth with Bull & Crown Publik House and Taberna del Caballo.

Tourism is the largest industry in St. Johns County and supports more than 29,000 jobs, according to the St. Augustine, Ponte Vedra & The Beaches Visitors and Convention Bureau. In 2016, there were 6.6 million visitors to Florida's historic coast. While here, they spent a total of \$1.1 billion providing \$24 billion in economic impact.

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Steve Miller Band and Peter Frampton to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre July 20

Two titans of classic rock, The Steve Miller Band and Peter Frampton, will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Friday, July 20. Tickets go on sale Friday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.



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Steve Miller was a mainstay of the San Francisco music scene that upended American culture in the late 1960s. With albums like “Children of the Future,” “Sailor” and “Brave New World,” Miller is known for a psychedelic blues sound that drew on the deepest sources of American roots music and simultaneously articulated a compelling vision of what music - and society - could be in the years to come.

Then, in the 1970s, Miller crafted a brand of rock ‘n’ roll music that was polished and exciting, including hits like “The Joker,” “Livin’ in the USA,” “Take the Money and Run,” “Rock’n Me,” “Fly Like an Eagle,” “Jet Airliner,” “Jungle Love” and “Abracadabra,” among them.

Miller, who has just been voted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame after being nominated for the first time this year, keeps himself immersed in listening and playing all genres of blues and jazz and rock ‘n’ roll music – American music.

Miller is also contributing his time to serving on the welcoming committee of the Department of Musical Instruments of New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art and as a board member of Jazz at Lincoln Center, where he curates and hosts shows at both institutions, celebrating the bridge between blues and jazz music and early American music.

At 16, Peter Frampton was lead singer and guitarist for British band the Herd. At 18, he co-founded one of the first super groups, seminal rock act Humble Pie. His session work includes such artists as George Harrison, Harry Nilsson, David Bowie, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ringo Starr, John Entwistle and many others. His fifth solo album, the electrifying “Frampton Comes Alive!,” is one of the top-selling live records of all time.

The show starts at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 5:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$64 to \$134 and can be purchased at the



Photo courtesy of St. Augustine Amphitheatre

The Steve Miller Band and Peter Frampton will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Friday, July 20.

St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices. Save on fees by purchasing tickets at the Box Offices and have first pick when tickets go on sale Feb. 23 at 10 a.m. The Amphitheatre will host a special Steve Miller On Sale Party featuring complimentary coffee and show posters starting at 8:30 a.m. Tickets will also be available at ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000.

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St. Augustine Record Fair returns March 18

The Spring 2018 St. Augustine Record Fair, presented by local record store ToneVendor, returns to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre on Sunday, March 18.

The biannual event is a free, family-friendly event that is open to the public and will be held from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Music lovers and collectors are invited to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre to shop thousands of music-related items, including new and used vinyl records, CDs, cassettes, posters, turntable equipment and supplies, memorabilia, collectibles and more. This year, over 30 music vendors from across the Southeast United States will be on site, offering shoppers the chance to choose from nearly every type of musical genre to grow their collection. DJ sets by DJ Dorian Lopez of Ancient Deep will take place throughout the day.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase from several on-site food trucks as well as the Amphitheatre Concessions. Activities for the entire family include a visit from the St. Johns County Library Bookmobile and for the first time ever, there will be a “DJ 101” session. At 1:30 p.m., DJ Dorian Lopez will host a 30-minute tutorial on how to DJ. After the tutorial, this hands-on event will provide the opportunity for kids of all ages, and adults, to test their newfound DJ skills on a real DJ setup.

Stop by the DJ booth early in the day to register for this unique chance to practice on the wheels of steel.

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Huey Lewis and the News, Richard Marx to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre April 22

Quintessential '80s pop/rock band Huey Lewis and the News, with special guest Richard Marx, will perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre April 22 at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.). Tickets for the event are currently on sale.

Huey Lewis and the News is entering its 39th year as a band. Formed from two rival bay area bands in 1979, the group continues to tour worldwide and has sold 20 million albums during its run.

The Grammy award-winning band has written and performed top ten hits such as "Heart of Rock & Roll," "Stuck With You," "I Want A New Drug," "If This Is It," "Hip To Be Square," "Do You Believe In Love" and "Workin' For a Livin'." The group also wrote and performed "The Power of Love" and "Back in Time" for the film "Back to the Future." "The Power of Love," nominated for an Academy Award, went No. 1 on the Billboard Singles Chart.

Huey Lewis and the News incorporates a variety of musical influences into its live performances, including R&B and soul. Front man Huey Lewis brings bluesy tones to the performance through his harmonica solos. The band consists of Lewis (vocals and harmonica), Johnny Colla (saxophone,



Photo courtesy of Diany Markovits

Huey Lewis and the News is coming to the St. Augustine Amphitheatre April 22.

guitar and vocals), Bill Gibson (drums, percussion and vocals), Sean Hopper (keyboards and vocals), Stef Burns (guitars and vocals) and John Pierce (bass). The band's live shows feature a horn section with San Francisco bay area luminaries like Rob Sudduth (tenor saxophone), Marvin McFadden (trumpet), and Johnnie Bamont

(baritone saxophone).

Tickets for Huey Lewis and the News with special guest Richard Marx are available at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices, at TicketMaster.com or by phone at (800) 745-3000. For more information, visit www.staugamphitheatre.com.



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'Little Shop of Horrors' to run at the Alhambra through March 25

Local patrons of the arts can now see Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's rock musical "Little Shop of Horrors" at the Alhambra Theatre & Dining in Jacksonville, where it will run through March 25.

"Little Shop of Horrors" opened at the Orpheum Theatre in Manhattan's East Village on July 27, 1982, and ran for five years and 2,209 performances. When it closed in 1987, the show was the third-longest running musical and the highest-grossing production in off-Broadway history. It won several awards, including the 1982-1983 New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Musical, the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Musical and the Outer Critics Circle Award. Adapted for film in 1986, the show would eventually make its way to Broadway in 2003, receiving several Tony Award nominations.

The show's plot centers on a meek floral assistant named Seymour, who discovers a talking, singing plant that



Photo courtesy of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining

Castmembers of the Alhambra Theatre & Dining production of "Little Shop of Horrors" perform a scene during the show, which runs through March 25.

he names Audrey II after his co-worker crush, Audrey. The sassy, rhythm-and-blues-singing plant promises Seymour unending fame and fortune as long as he keeps feeding it its special diet. Over time, however, Seymour discovers the plant's secret plans for taking over the world and must make a difficult decision. Based on the 1960 film "The Little Shop of Horrors," the musical includes several well-known tunes, including the title song, "Skid Row (Downtown)," "Somewhere That's Green" and "Suddenly, Seymour."

Set to music in the style of early

1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, the Alhambra production will feature Sarah Sanders – known locally as Mama Blue – as "Crystal," Linzy Lauren as "Chiffon" and Meka King as "Ronnette." The show will also feature a live-action, mechanical puppet for Audrey II, which will be co-piloted by Luke Holt and Victoria Miller.

Alhambra tickets start at \$38 and include a three-course meal that changes for each show, a Broadway-style performance and complimentary parking. Tickets can be purchased online at alhambrajax.com or by calling (904) 641-1212.

St. Augustine Community Chorus to present concert March 10-11

The St. Augustine Community Chorus, under the direction of Mike Sanfilippo, will present, "From Stage to Screen: Opera Choruses, Broadway Fare & Film Music," as part of its 2017-2018 concert season, on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 3 p.m. The performances will be held at Ancient City Baptist Church, located at 27 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine.

This year, the annual Pops Concert, featuring the Pops Band's piano, bass, drums, guitar and reeds, will include familiar tunes mixed with new music.

The event will feature a sample of opera choruses, music made famous on both the Broadway stage and the big screen, and a finale from an operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan.

Visitors will hear selections from "Oklahoma," "Sound of Music," "Wicked" and "Into the Woods," along with Disney tunes from years of live-action and animated films. Additionally, the St. Augustine Youth Chorus will be joining the Community Chorus to sing a medley of songs from the Disney show, "Mary

Poppins." There will also be a few surprises to end the program.

Concert tickets cost \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door for adults and \$5 for students and military with a valid ID. Advanced tickets for the upcoming event can be purchased at Carter's Jewelry, Flowers by Shirley, Herbie Wiles Insurance, Southern Horticulture, Sterry Piano and online at www.staugustinecommunitychorus.org. Please specify Saturday or Sunday attendance when purchasing tickets.

Jacksonville Symphony to perform Russian Masterworks by Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff

The Jacksonville Symphony will perform Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony and Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto Feb. 23-24, led by Assistant Conductor Nathan Aspinall and featuring guest pianist Behzod Abduraimov.

Abduraimov was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, in 1990 and began to play the piano at the age of 5. He is an alumnus of Park University's International Center for Music (ICM), where he studied with Stanislav Ioudenitch and now serves as the ICM's artist-in-residence.

Abduraimov has collaborated with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, NHK Symphony and Leipzig Gewandhaus orchestras. He appeared at Carnegie Hall in 2015 and performed for the Cliburn Concerts, Carolina Performing Arts, the Vancouver Recital series and played concerts in Houston and Pittsburgh. Abduraimov recently appeared at the Aspen Music Festival and with orchestras such as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony and Seattle Symphony. In 2015, he made his debut with the Münchner Philharmoniker under Gergiev, featured in their new 360 degree Festival, and subsequently made his BBC Proms debut playing Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto.

Written for his first American tour in 1909, Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto is arguably one of the most difficult piano concerti to perform, according to the Symphony. Featured in the movie "Shine," the piece is the center of a pianist's emotional breakdown as he tries to conquer its technical demands.

Dmitri Shostakovich wrote his Fifth Symphony at a critical point in his career. The composer faced Stalin's displeasure after his opera "Lady Macbeth of the Mtensk District" was banned for not falling in line with the standards of the regime. This was the first time he faced Stalin's displeasure, which could have ended his career. The Fifth Symphony, maybe his most well-known, premiered November 1937 and was received with enthusiasm. Although Shostakovich outwardly described the work as "a Soviet artist's reply to just criticism," it is rumored he personally saw the final movement as a satire of Stalin and its appearance of elation as hollow.

The concerts will take place on Friday, Feb. 23 and Saturday, Feb. 24 in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacoby Symphony Hall. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the ticket office at (904) 354-5547 or visit www.jaxsymphony.org.

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THE CHAMBER 2018 & BEYOND

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ISABELLE RENAULT
St. Johns County Chamber of
Commerce President / CEO presents
the organization's newly adopted plan.

Read page 17 for more.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Toni Boudreaux
Director PVB Division,
St. Johns County
Chamber of Commerce

It has been almost a year since I took over as director of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve our wonderful community, which Coastal Living ranked as one of the Top 20 Best Places to Live on the Coast in 2018.

Our Visitor Information Center is becoming busier every month with guests wanting to find their own piece of paradise here in Ponte Vedra. We all know that to have a strong economic environment, we must have a strong community. We are truly blessed to have leaders, business owners, teachers and residents working together to share in the responsibility of fostering economic success here in our beautiful community.

As we continue to make our way into the new year, I am thrilled to be implementing the Chamber's new strategic plan as introduced by Chamber President

& CEO Isabelle Renault and unanimously approved by our Board of Directors. The plan, entitled 2018 & Beyond, will provide action steps to increase our capacity to adapt, be a fierce advocate for members' success and a known influencer of public policy. Over the next three years — with the hard work, dedication and expertise of staff, board members and volunteers — we are dedicated to continuing to support local businesses through promotion, education, advocacy and by providing quality events.

Also, mark your calendars for March 14 at Ruth's Chris Steak House here in Ponte Vedra Beach for guest speaker Henry Dean, who is the chair of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners representing District 5. He will join us during Chamber at Noon to speak about beach renourishment, smart growth and impact fees.

Then on April 12, we welcome the

CEO of K9s For Warriors, Rory Diamond, for our joint luncheon with the Jax Chamber. Based in Ponte Vedra, K9s for Warriors has now expanded west to Alachua County, taking over a 67-acre property where it will be able to pair more veterans with service animals.

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division offers three monthly events to serve our Chamber members: a Before Hours, Chamber at Noon and an After Hours. We invite you to join us at one of these events; don't forget to bring your business cards!

If you are not a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, please consider joining us today. Your membership will benefit your business and this community: one of the best places in Florida to live, work and play. Thank you again for a great year, and I look forward to seeing you out and about!

"Over the next three years — with the hard work, dedication and expertise of staff, board members and volunteers — we are dedicated to continuing to support local businesses through promotion, education, advocacy and by providing quality events."

Toni Boudreaux, Director PVB Division of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING SJC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PVBD EVENTS

MARCH EVENTS:

Chamber Before Hours

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 7 from 8-9 a.m.

Location: Allstate

Information: Enjoy your breakfast while networking among members and guests. This is a great way to start your work day with a little breakfast and conversation!

Cost: Free for members and guests

Sponsor: Allstate

Chamber at Noon

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 14 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Location: Ruth's Chris Steak House

Speaker: Henry Dean, District 5, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (Chair)

Topic: "Building Coastal Communities." Dean's address will include discussion on beach renourishment, smart growth and proposed impact fees for business/residential.

Cost: \$25 for pre-registered members and guests; \$30 on the day of the event

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber After Hours

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 21 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location: BBVA Compass Bank

Cost: Free for pre-registered members and guests; \$5 on the day of the event

Information: Chamber After Hours is designed for busy professionals who can't get out of their offices or off the job until the close of business. Join us to network among members and guests. The host will provide beverages and delicious bites. Bring your business cards!

Sponsor: BBVA Compass, BBVA Investment Solutions

APRIL EVENTS:

Chamber Before Hours

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 4 from 8-9 a.m.

Location: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

Information: Enjoy your breakfast while networking among members and guests. This is a great way to start your work day with a little breakfast and conversation!

Cost: Free for members and guests

Sponsor: Ponte Vedra Wellness Center

PVB Division Joint Luncheon with JAX Chamber Beaches Division

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 12 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(Program starts at noon)

Location: Sawgrass Golf Club

Speaker: Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors

Cost: \$25 for pre-registered members and guests; \$30 on the day of the event

Sponsor: Fields Auto Group

Chamber After Hours

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 18 from 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Location: Freedom Boat Club at Palm Valley Outdoors

Information: Chamber After Hours is designed for busy professionals who can't get out of their offices or off the job until the close of business. Join us to network among members and guests. The host will provide beverages and delicious bites. Bring your business cards!

Cost: Free for pre-registered members and guests; \$5 on the day of the event

Sponsor: Freedom Boat Club

Chamber president/CEO Renault presents Chamber plan during At Noon event



Photo courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Isabelle Renault presents the Chamber's 2018 & Beyond plan Feb. 14 at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra.

On Wednesday, Feb. 14, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Isabelle Renault was featured at the organization's monthly educational and issues focused luncheon, Chamber at Noon, at the Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa in Ponte Vedra.

"It is important that our members know our plans, how do we direct their investment to serve their businesses," Renault said, "also it is important to hear their feedback as to what we can do to better help them succeed."

Renault spoke to the Valentine's Day audience of about 40 to present the Chamber's 2018 & Beyond plan. Approved unanimously by the organization's board of directors, the new plan begins with the reality that businesses are continuously evolving. Issues such as increased competition, greater expectation of value and challenging generational differences that were addressed in the Chamber's previous plan, Elevate, Innovate, Accelerate, are still relevant today.

THE CHAMBER'S VISION FOR 2018 & BEYOND IS:

"The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce will be a fierce advocate for members' success. We will increase our capacity to adapt. We will impact the ever-changing business reality with proactive solutions. And, we will be a known influencer of public policy."

According to Renault, during the next three years and in some instances beyond even that, the Chamber will implement steps that she believes will take it to and past its tipping point to a moment when its resources are growing with its services and benefits.

She continued to state that some of the steps outlined in the 2018 & Beyond plan were already being executed.

"We have become much more active in the public policy arena and will continue to grow our influence so that we can be a more formidable advocate for our local businesses," Renault said. "In fact, it is a good example of how we are building on the foundation that we created under the Elevate, Innovate, Accelerate three-year plan that we adopted shortly after I ascended to the post."

CHAMBER PLAN continues on Page 18

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Photos courtesy of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce
Dick Williams, Toni Boudreaux and Chris Miller



Kim Scott, John Anderson and Kari Zerrahn

Chamber plan

Continued from 17

Under Elevate, the Chamber created the Public Policy Council and contends that today it is one of the key elements in the organization's ability to predict and respond to issues that might affect the business community.

Another example that especially affects Ponte Vedra is the Chamber's changing role in the area's tourism industry, said Renault.

"We have long been host to the Ponte Vedra Visitors Center, but as a voice of the many businesses that benefit from visitors' spending, we felt there was an opportunity for us to make a greater impact on the industry," said the Chamber CEO.

During the organization's previous plan, the



Randi Guthard, Lauren Braddock and Lacey Croy

Chamber commissioned a study to discover the best way to impact tourism in the area and is now assuming a role as a destination architect to help steer how best to attract people to the area.

According to Renault, these are just a few of the things the organization is focused on.

To find out more about the organization or to join the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber's Ponte Vedra Beach Division, call (904) 285-2004 or visit www.sjchamber.com.

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PVBD Board of Directors conducts monthly meeting

The Board of Directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce gathered at the Ponte Vedra Recorder office on Tuesday, Feb. 13 for its monthly meeting, which was catered by KC's Kitchen.

The board represents a broad cross-section of industries and individuals, each of whom brings years of professional experiences and business acumen to their board duties.

The board members and their respective titles on the board are as follows:

Chair: Susan Griffin, Ponte Vedra Recorder

Vice Chair: Rob Schlingmann, The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

Secretary: Sarah Alexander, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty



Rob Schlingmann, Jen Hendrich, Sarah Alexander, Gloria Dongara, Lucia Miller, Susan Griffin, Toni Boudreaux, Isabelle Renault, Nancy Hallett and Wiam "William" Battah gather at the PVBD Board of Directors meeting Feb. 13 at the Recorder's office.

Photo by Recorder staff

Immediate Past President: Ed Mercel, Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty

Board Member: Lori Adams, cabi/Harbor View Advisors/TPC Sawgrass

Board Member: Nancy Hallett, Gateway Business Advisors

Board Member: Janet Collins, Sawgrass Country Club

Board Member: Jennifer Belisario, TPC Sawgrass

Board Member: Jen Hendrich, THE PLAYERS Championship, PGA Tour

Board Member: Wiam "William" Battah, Ruth's Chris Steak House

Board Member: Gloria Dongara, AAA- The Auto Club Group

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Thursday, Feb. 22	Friday, Feb. 23	Saturday, Feb. 24	Sunday, Feb. 25
<p>Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Join the Savvy Job Hunters Ministry Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at Christ Episcopal Church, located at 400 San Juan Drive in Ponte Vedra Beach. The workshop, entitled "Taking the Plunge: Faith to Override Fear," will feature a presentation by J. Dianne Tribble on innovative ways to approach a job search. Tribble is a certified life coach, motivational speaker, published author and business start-up consultant. Register for the workshop by emailing Pam Ottesen at pottesen66@gmail.com. This event will take place in the Parish Center Conference Room on the second floor.</p> <p>Financial education class Karsten Jacobson will host a financial education class entitled "Rules of the Road" Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library. Jacobson will discuss the most common investing mistakes and how to avoid them, investing strategies to help reach your long-term goals and how to prepare for the swings in the market. RSVP by phone at (904) 285-9898 or via email at Linda.Kobetitsch@edwardjones.com. Seating is limited. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Southern Culture on the Skids at St. Augustine Amphitheatre The St. Augustine Amphitheatre's Front Porch Series presents the country-fried Americana trio Southern Culture on the Skids Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6). For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office at (904) 209-0367 or visit www.staugamphitheatre.com. The St. Augustine Amphitheatre is located at 1340C A1A S.</p> <p>K9s for Warriors graduation K9s for Warriors will host a graduation ceremony for the 400th service dog team Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. on the pool deck at the organization's headquarters, located at 114 Camp K9 Road in Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, visit www.k9sforwarriors.org.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon firing demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Park Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'Nature Reconstructed' exhibit at Beaches Museum & History Park The Beaches Museum & History Park is hosting "Nature Reconstructed," an exhibit by Lana Shuttleworth, until June 3. Shuttleworth uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachesmuseum.org. The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>John Dufresne book signing at The BookMark Award-winning author and professor John Dufresne will make an appearance at The BookMark Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. to talk about and sign copies of his new book, "FLASH! Writing the Very Short Story." Dufresne is the author of six novels, including "Louisiana Power & Light" and "Love Warps the Mind a Little." The BookMark is located at 220 1st St. in Neptune Beach. Email bkmrk@bellsouth.net for more information.</p>	<p>Camp I Am Special Fashion Show Catholic Charities will host the Camp I Am Special Fashion Show Feb. 24 at St. Matthew Catholic Church, located at 1773 Blanding Blvd. in Jacksonville. Doors open at 11 a.m., lunch is at noon and the show starts at 12:45 p.m. Tickets for the show cost \$15 at the door or in advance through the Camp I Am Special office, available at (904) 230-7447. Contact Fashion Show chairwoman Debra Capley at (904) 891-0181 for more information or visit www.CampIAmSpecial.com.</p> <p>Paint the Town Blue Gala The Paint the Town Blue Gala, sponsored by the Ponte Vedra Democratic Club, will take place Feb. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Marriott Sawgrass Resort in Ponte Vedra. Former Congresswoman Pat Schroeder will be on hand for the event. For more information and to purchase tickets (\$150), visit www.Facebook.com/PonteVedraDemocrats.</p> <p>83rd annual Bach Festival The Bach Festival Society of Winter Park is presenting its 83rd annual Bach Festival through March 4. Each year, the Bach Society fills Winter Park with choral, orchestral and chamber music for three weeks. For a complete list of concert times/dates, venues and performers visit www.BachFestivalFlorida.org.</p> <p>S*U*P*E*R Community Collection Day Residential materials will be collected Feb. 24 at the TPC Parking Lot, including paint, motor oil, pesticides, batteries, antifreeze, solvents, lighter fluid, extinguishers and more. Obsolete electronics will also be collected. This event will take place at CR210 @ A1A from 8 a.m. to noon. Call (904) 827-6980 for more information.</p> <p>Historical Landmark Dedication Ceremony Three landmarks will be dedicated at the Historical Landmark Dedication Ceremony in Switzerland, Florida, Feb. 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will take place at Alpine Groves Park at 2060 S.R. 13. For more information, call (904) 707-5207.</p>	<p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Black History Month sale at World Golf Hall of Fame The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum is celebrating Black History Month by offering 50 percent off admission for any guest who mentions the Black History Month promotion throughout the month of February. The museum, located at 1 World Golf Place, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.worldgolfhalloffame.org.</p> <p>Cathedral Festival The 2018 Cathedral Festival features rides, games, bingo, a silent auction, food, beverages, fireworks and live music Feb. 23-25. The festival takes place at the Mission Nombre de Dios beginning at 5 p.m. on Friday and noon on Saturday and Sunday. Fireworks go off Saturday at 9 p.m., weather permitting. Admission costs \$5 for adults. For more information, visit www.thecathedralfestival.com. Proceeds from the festival benefit the Cathedral Parish School and Cathedral Parish Early Education Center. Mission Nombre de Dios is located at 89 A1A Scenic and Historic Coastal Byway in St. Augustine.</p> <p>'Black Panther' at World Golf Hall of Fame IMAX Theater After the events of Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War," King T'Challa returns home to the reclusive, technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to serve as his country's new leader. However, T'Challa soon finds that he is challenged for the throne from factions within his own country. This film is showing at the IMAX Theater at World Golf Hall of Fame Feb. 25 at 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 and 10:15 p.m. The World Golf Hall of Fame is located at 1 World Golf Place in St. Augustine.</p>

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Monday, Feb. 26	Tuesday, Feb. 27	Wednesday, Feb. 28	Thursday, March 1
<p>Caregiver support meetings The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p>First Coast Plein Air Painters exhibition This exhibition, presented by the First Coast Plein Air Painters, is on display through February at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way; visit www.ccpvb.org for more information.</p> <p>MOSH Mondays The Museum of Science and History's MOSH Mondays features discounts including buy-one-get-one-half-off admission for adults, 10 percent off MOSH-branded items in the museum shop, 10 percent off memberships when signing up in-person and 10 percent off birthday packages when signing up in-person. MOSH Mondays also feature rotating weekly programs. MOSH is located at 1025 Museum Circle in Jacksonville. Visit www.themosh.org for more information.</p> <p>Free law school classes The St. Johns Legal Aid Staff will present free law school classes on the exploitation of the elderly and vulnerable in Florida, foreclosure defense, how to avoid the need for guardianship, landlord/tenant laws, avoiding predatory lending and other consumer scams, the rights of a debtor and more through April 30. Classes take place Mondays from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Southeast Branch library, located at 6670 U.S. 1 S. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Prenatal yoga Prenatal and postnatal yoga is designed to help women cope with the changing needs of their body before and after pregnancy and birth. The public is invited Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. to share individual experiences with other women and gain empowerment through yoga, meditation, and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy, and once recovered from birth, but prior approval from a healthcare provider is advised. This event will take place at the Y Healthy Living Center, located at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p> <p>Family storytime and crafting Join Mr. Andy and Mrs. Marcia in The Randolph Caldecott Children's Room at the St. Johns County Main Branch library Feb. 27 at 11 a.m. for singing, stories and crafts. This program is open to children of all ages. The Main Branch is located at 1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd. in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Womens Food Alliance seafood dinner w/ Cindy Stavelly Get to know businesswoman and sharpshooter Cindy Stavelly and enjoy a seafood dinner Feb. 27 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Augustine Seafood Company. Menu options will include seafood baskets, fish and chips burritos, po'boys, anchor burgers, chowders, salads, oysters, shrimp and more. The reservation deadline is Feb. 22. For more information on how to register, email Leigh Cort at leighcort@bellsouth.net. St. Augustine Seafood Company is located at 33 St. George St.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Taize Service/Lenten Program On Wednesday evenings during lent, join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church for a Taize Prayer service in the church at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and an evening program. The theme for this year is "Transforming Our World." There will also be a program available for children after dinner at 6:30.</p> <p>Keynote speaker at Palms Presbyterian Church In light of the recent school shooting in Florida, the general public is invited to view a presentation featuring keynote speaker Dr. Carolyn Lukensmeyer, the executive director of the National Institute for Civil Discourse. This event will take place Feb. 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Palms Presbyterian Church, located at 3410 S. 3rd St. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Candlebox at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host Candlebox Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. (doors open at 7). Formed in 1991 by singer/guitarist Kevin Martin, "Candlebox" is an American multi-platinum rock band from Seattle that has released six studio albums. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>The Olde South Photography Series Rick McAllister's photography exhibition showcases structures that represent a part of the past in the South. The exhibition will be on display in the Rotunda Gallery of the St. Johns County Administration Building from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.</p>	<p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class March 1 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Dixie Dregs Dawn of the Dregs Tour at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host six-time Grammy-nominated instrumental pop group Dixie Dregs and the Dawn of the Dregs tour March 1, featuring the Dregs' original band lineup for the first time in 40 years. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the performance starts at 8. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Sunset/moonrise at the St. Augustine Lighthouse Enjoy the sunset and moonrise from the top of the St. Augustine Lighthouse March 1 at 5:30 p.m. Admission costs \$30 and includes a champagne toast provided by San Sebastian Winery, hors d'oeuvres from The Reef and an overview of the history of the St. Augustine Light Station. For more information and to purchase tickets visit www.staugustinelighthouse.org. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave.</p> <p><small>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 ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</small></p>

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County administrator addresses SJC's troubling financial state, urges engagement at Chamber luncheon

By Jon Blauvelt

*Originally published Jan. 18

According to County Administrator Michael Wanchick, St. Johns County is offering its residents a quality of life that isn't sustainable financially, and something needs to change to ensure the county can balance its budget moving forward.

"Right now, we are not priced correctly in the market," said Wanchick on Thursday, Jan. 11 to members of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division and the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce at a luncheon at Sawgrass Country Club. "The demand for what we are offering is going up, but our ability to collect revenue is going down."

Wanchick said the financial state of St. Johns County has been stressed for the better part of 10 years. He noted that in 2005/2006, the county was issuing about 4,000 single family residential building permits per year, with ad valorem increases at 20 and 22 percent. Today, Wanchick said, the county is issuing the same number of permits, but with property taxes down, its collections are at 8 percent.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick, St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President/ CEO Isabelle Renault, Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser, Jacksonville Beach City Manager George Forbes, Jax Chamber Beaches 2018 Division Board Chair Christine Wier, Brandon Starks of Fields Auto Group, Chamber PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux and Brian Zehren of Fields Auto Group, gather following the Jan. 11 joint Chamber luncheon (Not pictured: Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown).

FINANCIAL continues on Page 23

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Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser addresses the joint Chamber luncheon.



Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown addresses the joint Chamber luncheon.



St. Johns County Administrator Michael Wanchick addresses the joint Chamber luncheon.

Financial

Continued from 22

Wanchick said St. Johns County is one of the few counties in the state with a sales tax of 6 cents, which he said is low compared to others. He also noted the county doesn't charge a 5-cent gas tax or franchise fees, and its bed tax is only at 4 cents.

Wanchick said the county is adding over 10,000 residents per year, which is 4,000 less than the population of the City of St. Augustine. With this continued growth and lack of revenue, he said he wouldn't be surprised if conversations start to take place on implementing fees for individual services, like recreation programs and libraries.

Wanchick said the county has been able to "skate" in the past because developers were willing to make major investments prior to the housing crash, citing Nocatee as an example. Now, he said today's circumstances are making developers more reluctant to do so.

As a result, the county administrator said St. Johns County will have to make a difficult decision soon.

"How do you balance your budget?" he questioned. "Is it better to reduce our quality of life with lowered taxes? Or is there some level of tax or increase acceptable to preserve or enhance our quality of life?"

As this decision becomes more imminent, Wanchick said it's more important than ever for residents to become involved with their local government. He said lack of community engagement is the most significant challenge for local government, and that needs to change so that elected officials are not left in a position to guess about issues that affect residents' quality of life.

Wanchick also touched on hurricane recovery and said the county has invested \$10 million into Summer Haven over the past 10 years to maintain the area's beach and roads. The county administrator said that investment is gone and only a few dozen homes remain as a result of the recent hurricanes and storms. His fear is that

other parts of the county and coastline will face similar problems if a comprehensive and active coastal management plan is not implemented.

Updates from other officials

In addition to Wanchick, other local officials attended the luncheon to speak about their respective cities.

Atlantic Beach Mayor Ellen Glasser said business is on a "really good trajectory" in her city, noting that over 150 business licenses were issued last year. On another note, she discussed her efforts to reduce the speed limit on Mayport Road from 45 to 35 mph. She wore a button at the luncheon that is in memory of a 12-year-old boy that was recently killed on the road.

Neptune Beach Mayor Elaine Brown discussed a master plan for Jarboe Park that features a trailhead for the East Coast Greenway, connecting it to trails that will ultimately link Atlantic Beach, the greenway, Neptune Beach and Jacksonville Beach. She also said at the luncheon that Neptune Beach is thinking about selling city hall and its police department in the central business district and moving to a new location. In addition, Brown said the Kmart will soon be developed, and that landscape programs are currently in the works to make the Beaches Town Center more attractive. She noted that 48 new parking spaces have already been added on the right of way in the town center.

Jacksonville Beach City Manager George Forbes said he believes a bill will be proposed to the city council that will allow medical marijuana facilities in Jacksonville Beach "as long as they're as a permanent use in major commercial zones." In minor commercial zones, he said they would be allowed as a "conditional use." Forbes also noted that three new hotels may be coming to Downtown Jacksonville Beach within the next two to five years. He said two have been approved just north of Casa Marina.

Overall, Forbes said the City of Jacksonville Beach is in "excellent financial condition," and will be out of debt in two years.



Jennifer Belisario, Derek Sprague and Janet Collins



ABOVE: Ryan Betesh, Maury Kopman and Vince Serrano



LEFT: Toni Boudreaux and Kent Justice

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

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Mainstream Boutique Owner Carla Miles

Mainstream Boutique hosts Chamber 'Before Hours' event

Local business professionals in the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division gathered at Mainstream Boutique before work Wednesday, Jan. 10 for breakfast and networking.

Located at 880 A1A North (Suite 4), Mainstream Boutique features stylish women's retail clothing and accessories at non-boutique prices.

For more information on the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, visit sjchamber.com.



ABOVE: Ricki Taylor, Lori Adams and Lucia Miller

RIGHT: Jennifer O'Neal and Trudy Toche

BELOW: Treats from KC's Kitchen

Photos by Susan Griffin



Toni Boudreaux, Carla Miles and Trudy Toche





ABOVE: Pirates from the Fernandina Pirates Club attend the most recent Nocatee Farmers Market on Feb. 17.

RIGHT: Nocatee residents enjoy touring the Fernandina Pirates Club's ship at the Nocatee Farmers Market.

Photos by Susan Griffin



Local pirates pay visit to Nocatee Farmers Market

The Nocatee community — which was developed by Chamber of Commerce member The Parc Group — hosted a cast of pirates from the Fernandina Pirates Club on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Nocatee Farmers Market.

Held at the Splash Waterpark Swim Club Green, the event allowed Nocatee residents to interact with the pirates, tour the group's ship and attend the group's

“pirate school.”

The event also featured crafts and a bounce house for kids, as well as beer and wine for adults. Life Exchange Insurance Services served as the market's sponsor.

An event that is held the third Saturday of every month, the market includes over 70 local vendors offering items such as organic produce, herbs, spices, unique foods, crafts, jewelry and more.

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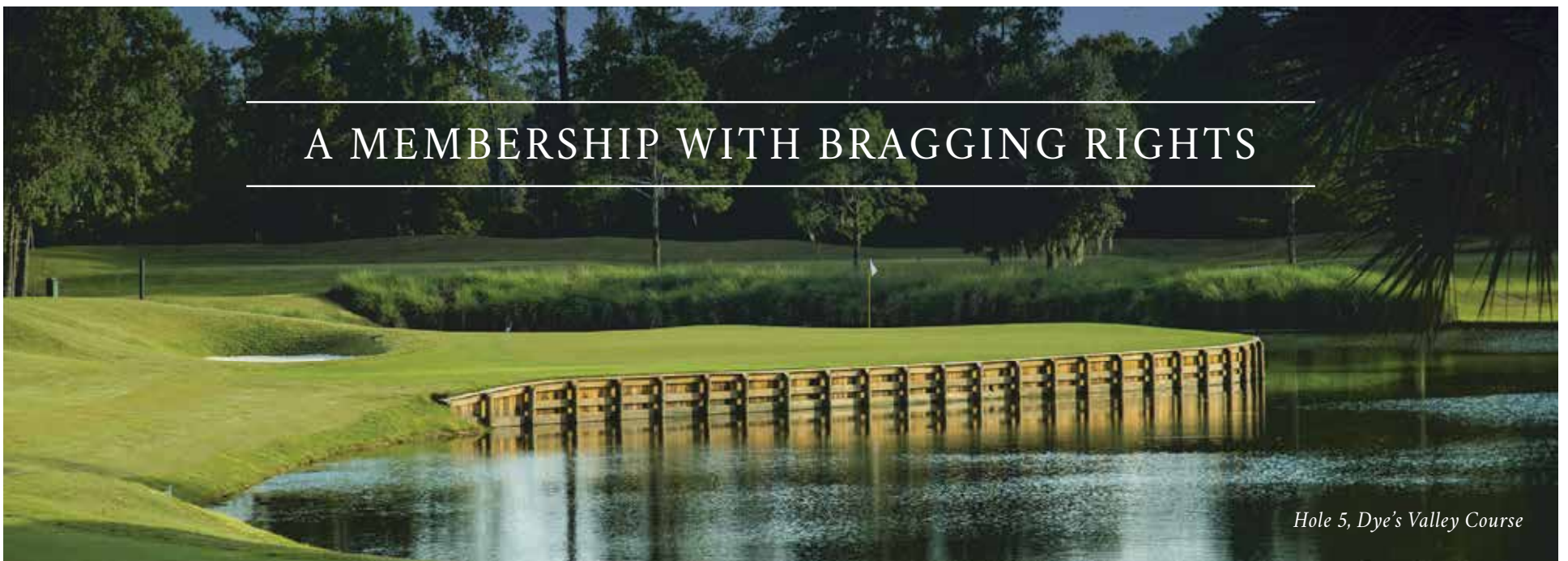
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Fluffy Cuts owner Brian Anderson (center) speaks with fellow Chamber members at the “Before Hours” event on Feb. 7.

Fluffy Cuts convenes local business leaders at Chamber’s ‘Before Hours’ event

Local business leaders had the opportunity to network and enjoy breakfast before work on Wednesday, Feb. 7 at the Chamber’s “Before Hours” event, which was sponsored by Fluffy Cuts and held at the Chamber’s Ponte Vedra Beach Division office.

Fluffy Cuts, which is owned by Brian Anderson, is a pet groomer located at 2185 3rd St. South in Jacksonville Beach.



ABOVE: Dave Danzeisen and Michael Lenahen

RIGHT: Breakfast bites provided at the Chamber networking event



ABOVE: Buck Smoak and Jennifer O’Neal



LEFT: Kim Scott and Donna McDonough

Photos by Susan Griffin

New Life Healthcare hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

By Benjamin Naim

New Life Healthcare hosted an “After Hours” event Wednesday, Jan. 24, for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members gathered at the event for food, drinks and live music from local guitarist Chase Rideman of Chillula. The business also celebrated joining the Chamber with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

“It was a really good time,” said Dr. Sean Tracy of New Life Healthcare. “We had a great turnout between the Chamber of Commerce members here in Ponte Vedra and some of my friends and family and patients coming out to show their support.”

Tracy, a Jacksonville Beach native, is the founder and clinic director of New Life Healthcare, a family-owned business that provides patients with chiropractic care, regenerative medicine and other forms of treatment.

Tracy graduated as valedictorian of Duncan U. Fletcher High School and then completed his undergraduate studies at University of Florida with a major in exercise physiology and a minor in business administration. After working for a year in an integrated chiropractic and medical clinic under the guidance of Dr. Mark Pierce, Tracy attended the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Port Orange, Florida. Certified in Advanced Orthogonal Technique, Tracy subsequently started his practice in Ponte Vedra Beach, which he said also offers care for patients seeking better posture and balance.

“We focus on providing patients with another option to fixing their problems,” Tracy said. “We give them a very caring, consistent and excellent care. Patients who’ve had issues they haven’t been able to find much help for in the past, we’re giving them new and exciting options to treat whatever it is that’s bothering them.”

Among those options are sound-wave adjustments that realign the spine without the usual pushing, cracking or popping caused by regular chiropractic care.

“Because we do it so gentle and specific, patients actually hold their adjustments here rather than having to come back over and over again forever,” Tracy said.

New Life’s stem cell therapy is re-growing cartilage, tendons and ligaments in joints to heal patients, Tracy added, and the regenerative medicine offered by the facility is helping patients get back on their feet and avoid surgery.

Furthermore, Tracy said New Life Healthcare offers free consultations – and they don’t just treat injuries.

“Injuries are a lot of times what usually drives people to seek care,” he said. “But we love to take care of patients and just help them live a better life. Whether it’s fixing posture or correcting imbalances or just simply removing any pressure, interference off the nervous system and allowing the body to heal and function fully like it was designed to.”

For more information on the practice, which is located at 1102 A1A North in suite 105, visit www.new-lifehc.com or call (904) 763-9707.



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Dr. Sean Tracy and his wife Kelly celebrate New Life Healthcare’s Chamber membership with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



ABOVE: Dr. Marijane Boyd, Kelly and Dr. Sean Tracy and Stacey Gabby of New Life Healthcare gather at the Jan. 24 Chamber “After Hours” event.

LEFT: Musician Chase Rideman performs at the event.



TOP RIGHT: Andrea Marcus and Chelle Thomas attend the Chamber event at New Life Healthcare.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Kim O’Steen and Bryan Fazio pose for a photo at the “After Hours” event.

Photos by Susan Griffin



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- The Scanu Companies - TSC
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- Mark Berman, MediaShare Consulting Group
- St. Johns Title, LLC
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Chamber names Taylor PVBD Ambassador of the Quarter

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce recently named Ricki Taylor the Ponte Vedra Beach Division (PVBD) Ambassador of the Quarter.

Taylor currently serves as the chair of the PVB Division Ambassador Board, representing and championing the division at chamber events and in the community. She has been an active member of the Chamber PVB Division for over five years, ambassador for three years and ambassador chair for two years.

A Florida native, Taylor attended University of Georgia and then began her career in the mortgage business in 1985. She joined Synovus in 1998 and is now responsible for covering all of Northeast Florida for the company.

Outside of work, Taylor enjoys traveling, weight lifting, walking her dog and spending time with her two sons.



Ricki Taylor

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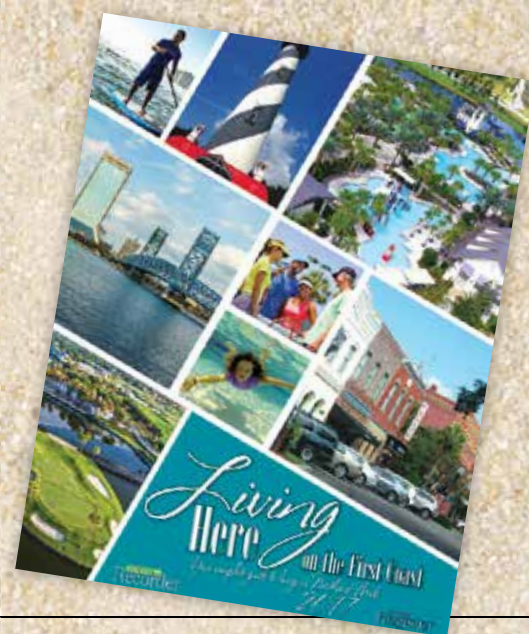


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CHAMBER MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach welcomes new employee

The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach — a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce — recently welcomed its newest employee, Grace, a 3-year-old Border collie skilled in bird control.

Seeking humane methods of bird control for its pristine golf course, The Plantation enlisted the help of Grace to patrol the grounds with her handler, Assistant Superintendent Andy Brown.

Together, they encourage geese to relocate off the property. Border collies are frequently trained for bird control, as their natural profile is comparable to a wolf, which geese view as a dangerous predator. When given the command to approach a gaggle, Grace will mimic the stance of a wolf to alert the geese to leave. While Grace seeks to emulate a wolf, she has been trained to bring no harm to the birds.

In addition to joining Brown on the course, she has also joined the Brown family at home.

“Grace has become fast friends with



ABOVE: Grace sits in a golf cart with family member and The Plantation's Assistant Superintendent Andy Brown as John Brandyberry stands by.



LEFT: Grace gets in position for her bird-control duties at The Plantation.

Photos courtesy The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach

Mae (a 3-year-old rescue Labrador-mix), and we are excited to have her as a new member to our family,” Brown said.

The Plantation is a residential neighborhood in Ponte Vedra Beach, with luxury amenities including a recently

renovated golf course, private beach club, tennis facility, amenities park, fitness center and a clubhouse with dining and social activities for all ages.

For more information about The Plantation, visit www.theplantationpvb.com.

K9s For Warriors to graduate 400th service dog team

K9s For Warriors — the nation's largest provider of service dogs for American veterans with post-traumatic stress (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) and/or military sexual trauma (MST), as well as a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce — will graduate its 400th service dog team today, Feb. 22, and all are invited to attend.

“This month, we're celebrating our 400th graduate team; we are on par to reach 500 graduates by the end of this year,” said Brett Simon, president of K9s For Warriors. “The success of this program shows that our honorable veterans are truly being saved. While this growth is awe-inspiring, it's exactly what we prudently planned for.”

This milestone was reached seven years after K9s For Warriors served its first class of veterans. Founded in 2011, Shari Duval began K9s For Warriors to help her son, Brett Simon, recover from his own experience with PTSD. Nearly 30 percent of post-9/11 veterans suffer from PTSD.

In K9s For Warriors' unique program, veterans mitigate PTSD symptoms using task-centered dog commands taught by professional trainers. The training provided is intended to help veterans reintegrate into civilian society with dignity and independence. Warriors reside on K9s For Warriors' campus for three weeks and receive 120 hours of instruction with their service dog prior to graduation.

The organization has assisted veterans in 46 states and in more than 150 cities. Graduates of the program improve their lives and reduce their risk for suicide. The service dogs in the program are also given a new “leash” on life: 90 percent have been rescued from high-kill shelters or homelessness.

Once managed from a two-bedroom home, the program has experienced measurable growth since its inception, and now operates from a nine-acre, state-of-the-art facility. At the start of this year, K9s also opened a brand-new training facility near Gainesville named the Gold Family Campus.

The graduation ceremony will take place at the K9s For Warriors headquarters, which is located at 114 Camp K9 Road in Ponte Vedra. For additional information, contact Brianna Ehrhart at Behrhart@K9sForWarriors.org, or call (904) 686-1956.

Cultural Center promotes Marling to director of operations

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach — a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce — has selected staff member Dee Marling as the new director of operations and human resources, effective immediately.

Employed by the Cultural Center since 2014, Marling will now be responsible for day-to-day operations and will oversee the exhibition and communications department as well as the programs department.

“This is truly a well-deserved promotion,” Executive Director Donna Guzzo said. “Dee Marling is a hard worker, an enthusiastic individual who focuses on solutions and is in alignment with the vision of the Cultural Center: To inspire learning, model the organization's values, build and lead by allocating capital to the organization's priorities. With a background in finance, human resources and a strong work ethic, she will lead her department to greatness.”

Marling's new role follows an operations career in the finance industry that has taken her from federal government work at the Pentagon to the private sector, and finally into nonprofit work. She takes a directorial position at a pivotal



Photo courtesy of the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach

Dee Marling

time, as a recently completed feasibility study showed wide support for a new, larger Cultural Center facility with a higher profile and expanded services. Marling recently attended the Future of Education Technology Conference in Orlando and brought back many ideas to enhance programming.

In her new role, Marling will hit the

ground running as the Cultural Center is in the process of hiring staff for several new positions while continuing to offer more than 180 programs and 15 exhibitions a year. The Cultural Center, established in 1996, offers arts classes, children's camps and workshops for adults taught by regional and national artists. Many of those programs are housed at the current Cultural Center facility at 50 Executive Way in Ponte Vedra Beach, and in order to expand program offerings and the arts throughout St. Johns County, the Cultural Center is embarking on a multimillion-dollar capital campaign for construction of larger headquarters.

“I'm thrilled about this new opportunity,” Marling said. “I have been fortunate to have been part of such a successful organization, working with a dynamic staff, donors, partners and volunteers over the last four years. I believe in our mission statement to bring the arts into the life of the community through arts education, exhibitions and outreach, and by honoring a donor-driven philosophy. Under Donna Guzzo's leadership and vision, I look forward to working together at the senior level, launching us into a bright future.”

Chamber's EDC Quarterly Breakfast convenes area business leaders, features remarks from Firehouse CEO

Local business leaders gathered at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort on Friday, Jan. 19, for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council (EDC) Quarterly Breakfast, which featured remarks from Firehouse of America, LLC Chief Executive Officer Don Fox.

The Firehouse executive discussed how his firm's success can be replicated by

entrepreneurs growing their own companies. Fox's company has grown from a few restaurants in Northeast Florida to 1,104 restaurants in 44 states and three countries. For more information on Firehouse, visit www.firehousesubs.com.

For more information on the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, visit www.sjcchamber.com.



ABOVE: Firehouse of America, LLC CEO Don Fox addresses the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce EDC Quarterly Breakfast on Jan. 19 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort.



Business leaders at the EDC Quarterly Breakfast show their pride for the Jaguars.



LEFT: Carol Saviak, Donna Guzzo, Chris Weber and Bill Curtis gather at the EDC Quarterly Breakfast.

Photos by Susan Griffin

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Business Weekly

WITH TRIBUTE TO REALTORS/BUILDERS

PAGE 35 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Berkshire Hathaway celebrates 30 years

Page 40

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo courtesy of Sotheby's Realty

Sotheby's realtor Randy Coryell added a remodeling business to his real estate resume.

Local realtor upgrades homes with own remodeling business

By Benjamin Naim

Ponte Vedra resident Randy Coryell can sell a home and upgrade it, too.

A realtor for Sotheby's International Realty, Coryell is also the owner of Rocland, a local remodeling business that upgrades homes and prepares them for sale.

Originally from Southern California, Coryell was the CEO of a manufacturing company in Atlanta for 22 years before he sold his business and relocated to Ponte Vedra in 2008. As he sought his realtor's license, Coryell met with Sotheby's representatives because he wanted to get a feel for the local market. He eventually landed a job as a realtor for First Coast Sotheby's.

Today, Coryell has enhanced his work by utilizing his remodeling business to upgrade homes for both Sotheby's and non-Sotheby's clients.

"I act as a consultant to people quite often just individually," Coryell said in an interview with the Recorder. "I'll do a design for somebody, architectural stuff and structural stuff but when we actually get in there and do renos, Rocland is the company we use."

After learning about Sotheby's, Coryell said he was "very interested" in what the realty company was doing on a global marketing level.

"No one does distribution of property like Sotheby's," he said. "Not even close."

Unlike other realtors who might not connect with buyers and sellers, Coryell said he brings "more empathy to the table than the average guy," because he's been personally involved with the real estate

market for years.

As for the future, Coryell said he'll be doing more estate management and more business on a global scale with clients from around the world.

"I've been to Costa Rica and I've met people in Australia," he added. "The opportunities are endless."

Coryell, 61, has shown no signs of slowing down. The realtor said he is "cranking up," while others his age are preparing for retirement.

Miriam Rock, who described herself as the realtor's "good friend," noted that Coryell offers a unique set of skills not found elsewhere in the field. For example, Rock said Coryell can upgrade homes using his own crew and get them ready for sale without inconveniencing the property owner.

"Most realtors tell you, 'Do this, do that, get somebody to do this,'" Rock said. "They might suggest somebody but he can actually get it done so it was a really nice experience working with him."

"He's also doing some other work for a friend of mine," she added. "The nice thing is he has the added expertise of talent himself where he can make good suggestions for how things should look, and he has very good taste."

Rock owned her home for 17 years before Coryell helped her sell the property last December. According to Rock, the Sotheby's realtor is trustworthy, dependable and "a great talent."

"He has a great crew of people that he can call on for just about anything you need," she said. "I was very blessed to have his expertise in helping me out plus being able to sell the house."

For more information on Coryell's services, email him at randall.coryell@sothebysrealty.com.

From football field to real estate field

Former NFL player Venzke takes on Ponte Vedra market for SVR Realty

By Paris Moulden

It may not seem like a smooth transition to go from a professional football player to real estate agent, but for Patrick Venzke, there are a lot of similarities between the two.

"As an offensive lineman, it was my duty to protect my quarterback," Venzke said. "So, in real estate, I always try to protect my clients; to make sure they get the right house, to get a fair listing price. I think that's where the carryover is. I like being that protector, to make sure my customer and clients get what they deserve."



Patrick Venzke

Venzke, manager of the Ponte Vedra Beach office for SVR Realty, LLC, was the first German national to play in the NFL and was signed by the Jaguars in 2001. Venzke said he got interested in the real estate field during his days in the NFL, investing in the Jacksonville market even while he was with the Indianapolis Colts.

"I bought my first house in 2004, here in Jacksonville, and got really involved in buying properties," Venzke said.

He started accumulating properties in the area, renovating them and investing in his rental property business. But then the housing market collapsed.

"I went from, at least by equity on paper, being a multi-millionaire to applying for food stamps," Venke said.

He said because of his values, he couldn't bring himself to evict renters who were struggling to pay rent, and was losing around \$50,000 a month in rental income.

Venzke ended up relocating to Idaho, where he had attended college and where his wife's family was from.

"I had to eat some humble pie, to be honest," he said.

In Idaho, Venzke joined his first real estate company, Coldwell Banker. He said he earned several awards during his time there, but despite his success, he said the market was too small to sustain the number of agents working in the area.

It was while he was in Idaho clawing his way back up that he received a call from friend Jeff Terwilliger, asking him to move back to Jacksonville to help with Terwilliger's new company, SVR Realty.

"We have the kind of relationship where we are not only friends, but loyal, trustworthy business partners," Venzke said of his relationship with Terwilliger.

Venzke returned to the First Coast in April of last year to join SVR Realty, and currently runs the Ponte Vedra Beach office.

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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

Crosswater at Nocatee unveiled to community

Nocatee held a grand opening event for its newest community, Crosswater at Nocatee, on Saturday, Feb. 10, as well as a preview event for local realtors on Thursday, Feb. 8.

Both events allowed the community to tour model homes, eat delicious food and meet with Nocatee builders and the developer. The Feb. 10 event for the public featured classic American foods, a vintage car display, a traveling barber shop quartet and costume contest, as well as additional entertainment from magicians, stilt walkers and balloon animals.

Located south of Nocatee's Splash Water Park, Crosswater at Nocatee features homes by CalAtlantic Homes, David Weekley Homes, ICI Homes, Providence Homes and Riverside Homes. The Americana-themed community features three neighborhoods that will eventually total almost 500 homes, with single family homes starting in the high \$200s and ranging in size from 1,500 square feet to 3,200 square feet.

Visit www.nocatee.com/crosswater-neighborhoods for more information.



The Barton by CalAtlantic Homes



The Crandon by David Weekley Homes



The Monroe by ICI Homes

Photos by Susan Griffin

Coastal Living: Ponte Vedra Beach one of 'best places to live on the coast'

By Samantha Logue

In an article recently published by Coastal Living magazine, Ponte Vedra Beach was recognized as one of the "20 Best Places to Live on the Coast in 2018."

The list, which features 20 "amazing locations" throughout North and Central America, places Ponte Vedra Beach among such coastal retreats as Las Terrenas in the Dominican Republic, and Las Catalinas, Costa Rica. According to author Tracy Minkin, Ponte Vedra Beach is unique for its charming combination of the old and new.

"An Old Florida resort town with New Florida amenities, this growing seaside community on the Atlantic coast has embraced its nostalgic setting, anchored by the beloved Ponte Vedra Inn & Club," Minkin wrote. "Golfers love Ponte Vedra, which is well known for its place on the PGA Tour and THE PLAYERS Championship, and tennis players have traditionally flocked here, as well."

Minkin adds that the area's many natural amenities – including its beaches, rivers and marshes – make Ponte Vedra an ideal vacation spot for nature-lovers of all kinds, while its proximity to St. Augustine and Jacksonville provides ample access to the diversions of city.

To view the article in its entirety, visit www.coastalliving.com/travel/top-10/best-places-to-live-2018.



11 of 21 Courtesy of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

A screenshot of a recent Coastal Living article displays Ponte Vedra Beach as one of the "best places to live on the coast."

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Mineral City to move to new location

After 21 years in its current location at 240 A1A North, Mineral City is relocating to a new space that has not yet been announced.

The longtime Ponte Vedra Beach business said it's making the move to better serve its customers and meet the demand of its increasing interior design services. The business is moving out of its current location Monday, Feb. 26; the last day to buy anything there is Sunday, Feb. 25. The business is hosting a relocation sale through Feb. 25.

Mineral City's new space will include a design studio, where interior design and

do-it-yourself customers can better peruse the business' variety of fabrics, wallpaper and customer furniture and lighting options. The space will also have an area where principal designer Laura West can hold design meetings.

The business will continue to carry customer favorites such as gifts, candles, Antica Farmacista diffusers, on-trend jewelry, home accessories and Dash & Albert rugs.

During the relocation, West will continue her design work in the interim and can be reached at Laura.MineralCity@bellsouth.net and (904) 285-4784.

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Our Attention to the Details Sets Us Apart



Photos courtesy of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty

The Ponte Vedra office, under the leadership of managing broker Kevin Waugaman, received the Chairman's Cup award.

Berkshire Hathaway celebrates success and 30th anniversary at annual awards

Company applauds 'The Wonder Years' in 80s style

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and awards ceremony with a throwback to the 1980s and "The Wonder Years," boasting big hair, shoulder pads, neon spandex, preppy style, punk rock and more.

The celebration gave a nod to popular television shows with characters like Kevin Arnold and Winnie Cooper from 1980s hit "The Wonder Years." The event honored the company's 2017 top producers for their performance, accomplishments and sales success.

The top company award winners included:

- Elizabeth Hudgins, Ponte Vedra office: Top Producer with \$32.6 million in closed sales.

- Stefanie Bernstein, St. Augustine/Murabella offices: Named Top Listing Agent with 61 listings. Bernstein also was honored as the company's Top Transaction Agent with more than 184 transactions, and Top Sales Agent with 68 sales units.

- The Lisa Barton Team, Ponte Vedra Beach/Nocatee office: Recognized as the Top Producing Team with more than \$38 million in closed sales.



Elizabeth Hudgins, of the Ponte Vedra office, led as Top Producer with more than \$32 million in closed sales.



The Lisa Barton Team, of the Ponte Vedra office, was recognized as the Top Producing Team.



Realtor Ilona Fischer, of the Ponte Vedra office, was honored as Rookie of the Year.

- Ilona Fischer, Ponte Vedra office: Named Rookie of the Year with more than \$3 million in closed sales.

The Ponte Vedra Office, under the leadership of managing broker Kevin Waugaman, received the Chairman's Cup, which recognizes overachievement of budget targets in a number of categories, including client feedback, recruiting, listing sides, closed sides, per person productivity, closed volume and profitability.

"We have the absolute best team of realtors in the world and we can't thank them enough for their loyalty and contributions to the company's success," said Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Founder, President and CEO Linda Sherrer. "We are so

proud of our team's tremendous achievements and our 30 years of serving home buyers and sellers in Northeast Florida. We are excited about what the future holds for us in 2018."

In 2017, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty achieved a record-setting year with more than \$1 billion in closed sales. Also in 2017, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty ranked No. 1 in closed sales with a 17.2 percent market share; No. 1 in new listings with a 15.8 percent market share and No. 1 in pending sales with a 17.4 percent market share.

For more information about Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, call (904) 296-1906 or visit www.FloridaNetworkRealty.com.

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty hires Hannon, Olson

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty recently announced the additions of Debra Hannon and Sarah Olson to the Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office.

"Debra is eager for the opportunity to assist her clients in the largest financial

commitment of their lives, and to make this process as stress-free and easy as possible," Broker/Manager Kevin Waugaman said. "I'm glad to welcome Debra to our Ponte Vedra Office and am eager to see her succeed as a realtor."



Debra Hannon

Waugaman also commented on the addition of Olson to his team.

"Having successfully owned a brokerage in North Carolina, Sarah has a 'fast track' to a successful



Sarah Olson

career in real estate with us," said Waugaman. "We are excited to have her as part of our Florida Network Realty family."

Olson joins Florida Network Realty with nearly two decades of experience in real estate. Previously the broker/owner of Leap Realty in North Carolina, she has extensive experience in new construction homes, and has successfully marketed and sold many homes that have qualified for the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, as well as homes with the Energy Star qualifications.

The Ponte Vedra/Nocatee office is located at 333 Village Main Street, Suite 670, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082. Hannon can be reached for further information at (801) 657-2918, or at Debra.Hannon@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and www.dhannon.floridanetworkrealty.com. Olson can be reached at (336) 403-8840, Sarah.Olson@FloridaNetworkRealty.com and www.solson.floridanetworkrealty.com.

Venzke

Continued from 35

"Since then, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra has been nothing but a blessing," he said. "Everything has turned around since I moved back."

SVR Realty started out with three-to-four agents, and Venzke said the company has grown to 45-50 agents currently.

Venzke said the secret to SVR Realty's success is building a team atmosphere, something he learned playing for Tom Coughlin when he was with the Jaguars.

"There's a huge carryover," he said. "Being on time. Go the extra mile. Doing small things. Do your job the right way."

Venzke also believes leaving egos at the door, maintaining a diverse and inclusive environment and building genuine, personal relationships with agents are key

components to the company's success.

"It goes back to leadership," Venzke said. "Jeff [Terwilliger] tries to create a company culture where the benchmark is not how much volume is moved, but how much our agents are taken care of."

With those dark days behind him, Venzke sees big things for the real estate market in Ponte Vedra.

"I think Ponte Vedra is gaining national prominence," Venzke said. "It used to be

more like a hidden secret. Nowadays, I talk to people in New York and Seattle, and they know about Ponte Vedra.

"People are flocking to Florida for the lifestyle, for the people, the ocean, the weather," Venzke added. "Companies are moving to the Jacksonville area because the rent is affordable. It's just a good pro-business environment."

For more information on SVR Realty, LLC, visit svrrealtyfl.com.

Davidson Realty celebrates 2017's top agents, staff at 'Davie' awards

Davidson Realty honored its top performing agents and staff at the firm's annual awards event, "The Davies" on Saturday, Jan. 27 at its headquarters in World Golf Village.

"I could not be more pleased with our fantastic agents and supportive employees," said Sherry Davidson, president of Davidson Realty. "These professionals bring a new meaning to hard work and dedication."

Realtor Mirtha Barzaga was given the company's Triple Crown, including top producer, top listing agent and top seller. She finished the year with more than \$11 million in production. Suzy Evans took second place with \$7 million and Shelley Nemethy, Candy Gil and Margherite Myers each finished 2017 with \$5.5 million.

The President's Award went to graphic designer and marketing assistant Matt Burkhart. Agents Matt Roberts and Rebecca Schaffer each took Rookie of the Year.

Davidson added new team Davies, including Top Agent Team (Ann Kuss and Jeanie Oehrle) and Top Rookie Team (Dana Usrey and Vern Shadowen).



Triple Crown winner Mirtha Barzaga



President's Award recipient Matt Burkhart



Sherry Davidson (from left), agent Candy Gil and agent Jennifer Todd

Photos courtesy of Davidson Realty

Davidson Property Management's Davies went to Terri Apodaca (most rentals), Kevin Karn (rookie with most rentals) and Jennifer Todd (most properties referred from Davidson Realty).

Toll Brothers offering several move-in ready homes

Toll Brothers is offering several homes that will be move-in ready early this year in its Northeast Florida communities, including Coastal Oaks at Nocatee, Julington Lakes and Toll Brothers at Atlantic Beach Country Club.

Coastal Oaks at Nocatee, a gated community with private amenities in the heart of Nocatee, is offering a 3,364 square-foot Vanwick Classic. The two-story home features five bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms and a gourmet kitchen that opens to an expansive family room and breakfast area. The second floor includes a large master suite with a luxurious master bath and three additional bedrooms. The Vanwick Classic is priced at \$444,990.

Julington Lakes, a gated, master-planned community in Northeast Florida with no CDD fees, is offering a 3,190 square-foot Mandigo Coastal with five bedrooms, 4.5 bathrooms and a two-car garage. The first-floor master suite features two spacious walk-in closets and a master bath with a soaking tub and a glass-enclosed shower. The open floorplan includes a gourmet kitchen with

a large center island, a dining room and a great room that offers direct access to the covered lanai. Upstairs, the home features two additional bedrooms, two full baths and a loft. The Mandigo Coastal is priced at \$496,990.

Toll Brothers at Atlantic Beach Country Club features award-winning home designs and amenities in an exclusive golf and tennis community that is within walking distance of the beach. The community is now offering a two-story, 2,929 square-foot Terrano Shingle. The three-bedroom, three-bath home features an open-concept great room, a gourmet kitchen and a covered lanai with golf course views. The Terrano Shingle is priced at \$847,990.

"These luxury homes are a great option for buyers who want to move in quickly," said Steve Merten, Toll Brothers' Northeast Florida Division President.

Northeast Florida Community sales centers and designer-decorated model homes are open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday. For more information, visit TollBrothers.com/FLN.

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THEME: ST. PATRICK'S DAY

ACROSS

1. Salmon deposit
6. Old age, archaic
9. Bagpiper's garb
13. Hawaiian veranda
14. Big Island flower necklace
15. Helper
16. V.C. Andrews' "Flowers in the ____"
17. Uno ____ or one more
18. 4 x 4 race
19. *"Water of life"
21. *Shamrock
23. ____ Aviv
24. Rumpelstiltskin's weaver
25. Wildebeest
28. Mega Bloks competitor
30. *Outdoor St. Patrick's Day event
35. Starting point on way to riches
37. Clump
39. Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
40. *Ireland, once
41. Ox connector, pl.
43. Quartet minus one
44. Put out on a curb
46. *William Butler Yeats, e.g.
47. Cardinal vices
48. Bee's favorite drink
50. Russian mountain chain
52. Go gray
53. Period of illness
55. Workout unit
57. *These never lived in Ireland
60. *Hibernia
64. Musician's exercise
65. Flying saucer acronym
67. Cleveland's controversial chief
68. Villain
69. Decompose
70. Do penitence
71. Parting words
72. Pro vote
73. "Walk the Dog" toy, pl.

DOWN

1. Deli side
2. Beaten by walkers
3. Nay sayer
4. Middle measurement
5. Jefferson coin
6. Lined with elm trees
7. "Back To The Future" actress
8. ABBA's genre
9. Capital of Ukraine
10. Like some rumors
11. Shakespeare's tragic monarch
12. "Don't give up!"
15. Olfactory property, pl.
20. Funereal lament
22. Chop off
24. ____ tower
25. *"The wearing of the ____"

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

26. Evian, backwards
27. Finno-____ language
29. Lump of stuff
31. Refuse visitors
32. Skylit lobbies
33. Faulkner's "As I Lay ____"
34. Irregular or jagged
36. Religious offshoot
38. *Stout, e.g.
42. Liverpool star
45. Cursor-moving button
49. Wade's opponent
51. Wiggle room
54. Shylock's line of work
56. Socrates' famous pupil
57. Dog command
58. Classic art subject
59. Puts two and two together
60. Itty-bitty bit
61. Call to a mate
62. Unacceptable
63. "Nobody ____ It Better"
64. Flow alternative
66. *British to the IRA

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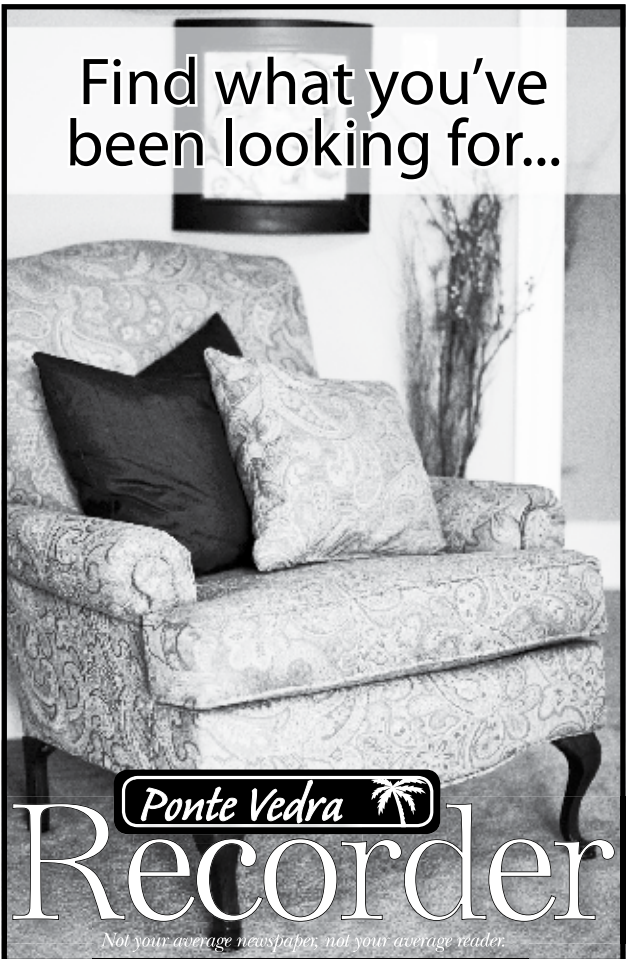
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Sports

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018 · PAGE 46



Send your sports news to pvrecorder@opcfla.com

Local playoff action

Ponte Vedra boys basketball defeated Clay 52-47 on Wednesday, Feb. 14 in the district playoffs.

Logan Conway led the team with 14 points, and Ben Houser and Reese Russi each added 11 points. Jack Johnson scored 10 points for the Sharks.

The Sharks ultimately lost 58-52 to Palatka in the district championship on Friday, Feb. 16. Ponte Vedra will play Gainesville Eastside in the first round of the playoffs today, Thursday, Feb. 22.

Ponte Vedra girls basketball

Ponte Vedra girls basketball is coming off of two consecutive playoff

wins. The Lady Sharks defeated Belleview 56-43 on Thursday, Feb. 15 and Gainesville Eastside 47-42 on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Ponte Vedra will play Fivay in the regional finals Friday, Feb. 23 at home at 7 p.m.

Nease girls basketball

Nease girls basketball defeated Gainesville 71-45 in the regional semi-finals on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The Lady Panthers will play at Choctawhatchee in the regional finals on Friday, Feb. 23.

Send scores and updates from your team to pontevedrarecorder.com.

PONTE VEDRA SOFTBALL PICKS UP FIRST WIN AFTER DEFEATING ORANGE PARK



Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton

The Ponte Vedra softball team won its first game of the 2018 season with a 6-4 win over Orange Park on Tuesday, Feb. 20. The Sharks jumped to an early 6-0 advantage and ultimately held on for the win. Pictured above is Audrey Matt smacking a line drive for the Sharks. Visit pontevedrarecorder.com to view more photos from the game.

PVHS SOFTBALL FALLS TO ATLANTIC COAST

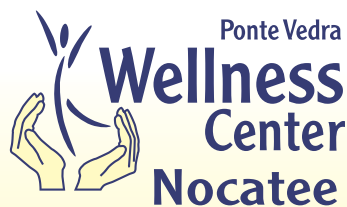


Ponte Vedra softball lost to Atlantic Coast 3-2 on Friday, Feb. 16. Olivia Zitiello and Michelle Leone drove in the Sharks' two runs and had two hits each. Shown left is Shark catcher Bailey Wagoner waiting for the ball as the Atlantic Coast runner scores what proved to be the winning run. Visit Pontevedrarecorder.com for more photos from this game.

Photo by Jerry and Chris Norton

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Flagler's Crossing - Jax Beach \$239,000
Fabulous 2BR/2BA condo just 2 blocks from the ocean. 1st floor flat with private gated courtyard. Tile flooring throughout common areas. Kitchen with breakfast bar opens to living area and dining/sun room. Large covered porch overlooks courtyard. Great location - within walking distance to beach, shopping and night life. MLS 919421



Odom's Mill at Ponte Vedra Beach \$525,000
Incredible 3BR/2.5BA single level, pool home with water to preserve views. Gorgeous eat-in kitchen with ss appliances opens to family room with FP and wall of windows to bring in the spectacular views. Tile and wood flooring, formal living & dining rooms, home office/nursery/playroom Huge screened pool/spa with covered patio and summer kitchen. Newer roof.



Seawind - Jax Beach \$595,000
Enjoy the salt life from this 3BR/2BA 6th floor oceanfront condo with large balcony capitalizing on the endless beach views. Beautifully updated with tile flooring, Plantation shutters and spacious kitchen with plenty of cabinetry. Owner's suite with wonderfully designed bathroom and balcony access. Views from every room.



Sawgrass Players Club \$650,000
All brick, 3BR/2BA/2HB single level pool home with spectacular water to golf views in TPC - home of the Players Championship. Wonderful layout with great flow, high ceilings & deep moldings. Large eat-in kitchen, light filled living room/study & dining room designed for a crowd. Great room w/FP opens to sun room w/access to screened lanai & pool. MLS 921192



South Jax Beach \$2,895,000
Fabulous 5BR/5.5BA oceanfront home with gated entrance and plenty of room for everyone. Wide open floor plan with elegantly appointed kitchen, dining area with stained glass and great room with fireplace opens to huge deck with hot tub and summer kitchen. Media room, elevator and 2 master suites each with ocean facing balcony. MLS 886414

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