

**October 5, 2017**Volume 47, No. 40
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PonteVedraRecorder.com



**BREAST CANCER AWARENESS**Pink Ribbon Golf
Classic Preview

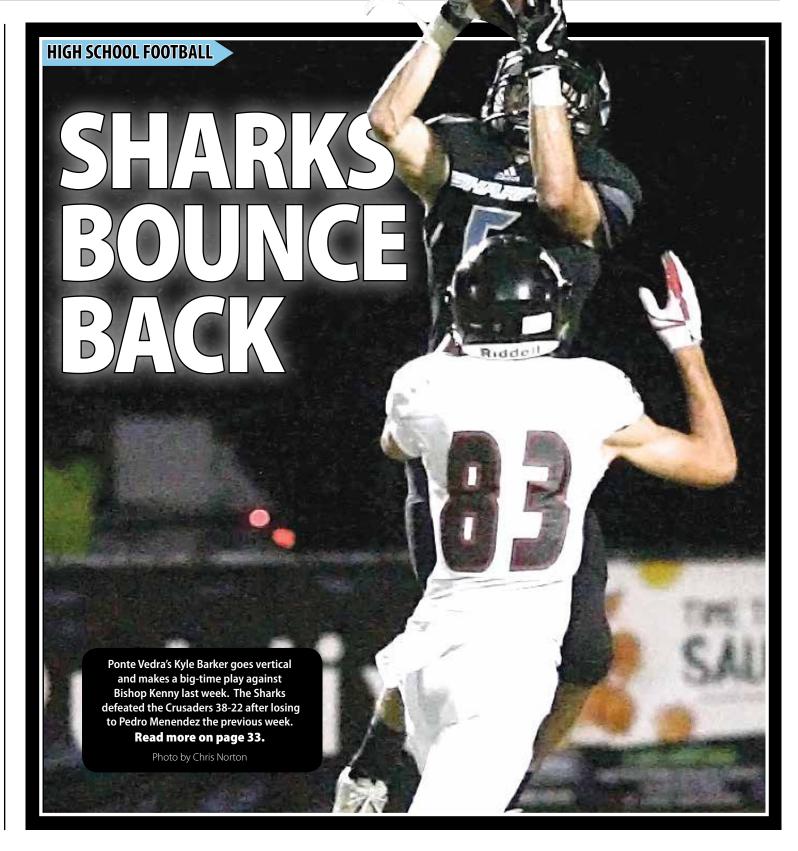
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# Send us your news

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. To allow as many families as possible to win, participants are only eligible to win one ticket prize pack per household every four months.

10 readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Sharky's Burgers and Fries sign. Good job, everyone! The winner of the random drawing was **Bob Claypoole**. Congratulations, Bob – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



# **ADOPT A PET**

# **CAT OF THE WEEK**

My name is Arthur. and I am a 33-week-old male kitten. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there



may be some traits that are unknown at this time.

Come visit me today here at the pet center! #40008

### **DOG OF THE WEEK** My name is

Genavie, and I am a 7-year-old female dog. I was brought to the pet center as a stray. As this animal was a stray, there may be some traits that are unknown at this time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #39200



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.

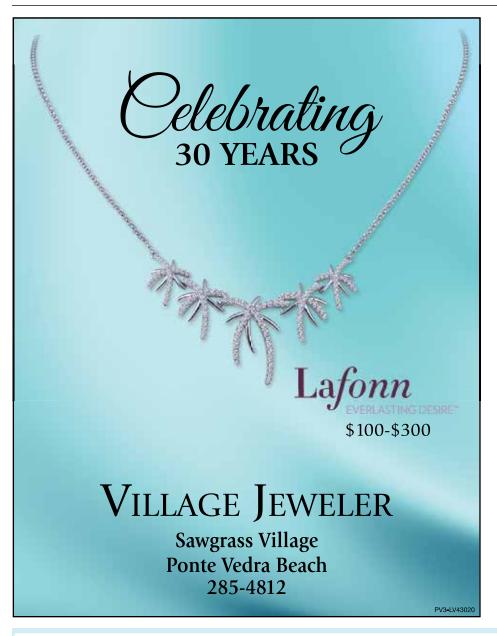
# St. Johns County Pet Center

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



Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles







# Live the Palm Valley Lifestyle!

Enjoy the freedom of living the Palm Valley lifestyle in this open, beautiful & professionally decorated 3BR/2.5BA home that sits on a 1/2 acre of land. The large Master Bedroom is conveniently located on the first floor & offers a ton of privacy. The 3271sf home features a large bonus room, 1/2 of which could easily be converted into a 4th BR & wonderful gas fireplace that has a hand carved mantle. Bring your RV/Boat, the yard is fully fenced, Quality built home, low maintenance cementious siding with stacked stone accents. 14 X 12 room with A/C just for storage. No HOA or CDD fees! \$594,000



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# COLLECTION











# **JAX GOLF & CC** \$550,000

Enjoy tranquil views of the golf course from the covered lanai of this magnificent home. The interior features spacious rooms, an updated gourmet kitchen, extensive crown molding, tray ceilings, 4 bedrooms, 4 baths and more. MLS 890510

John Richardson 904.465.5110 JRichardson@WatsonRealtvCorp.com

LUXURY PORT/OLIO

INTERNATIONAL

# **JULINGTON CREEK PLANTATION**

\$424,700

Practice your swing on the golf course or visit the aquatic complex and recreational center on the weekends before heading home to this spectacular 2990sf, 5/3.5, with 3-car garage and water to golf views. MLS 896369

Patti Mohr 904.813.4430 PattiMohr@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

# **OCEAN POND** \$369,000

Nestled in a quiet cul-de-sac, this updated home boasts the charm of beach living at it's best. The interior has a large great room that connects to the kitchen and opens to the deck that overlooks a tranquil pond. MLS 898093

Barbara Hubbard 904.349.1864 BHubbard@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

# **PALENCIA** \$368,000

Nestled in the beautiful community of Palencia this almost new Vilano model is hardly lived in. One floor living and spacious floor plan creates an easy living environment. Walk to all amenities and enjoy the Palencia lifestyle in this 4 bedroom, 3 bath home. MLS 901093

Cammy Ray 904.806.3489 CammyRay@WatsonRealtyCorp.com Lawrence Scalia 401.345.0961 LarryScalia@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

# **OXFORD CHASE**

\$246,900

Conveniently located near the St. Johns Town Center, this wonderful townhouse has been well maintained. Spend your mornings watching the serene lake from the screened lanai or visit the community amenities that includes a pool, clubhouse and more. MLS 902308

Ruby Newman 904.612.0188 RubyNewman@WatsonRealtyCorp.com

We're in your neighborhood.



**4 COMMUNITY NEWS**Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017

# **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

As a combat veteran of tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, I am truly disappointed to see ungrateful athletes and entertainers disrespect our flag, anthem and country. I stood shoulder to shoulder with other soldiers who were black, Asian, Christian, Jewish and Muslim who proudly performed their duty overseas under "The Star Spangled Banner." The flag and anthem are not racist, and they should not be used for protest.

Our society places too high of an emphasis on those who, often through a series of fortunate circumstances, are given a stage to perform for us. They may have talent, but they are not our true "heroes." I defend and respect the freedom of speech for individuals, but when a player is in team uniform, they are representing our town.

The grave disrespect displayed to our American flag and anthem on foreign soil was beyond appalling and will not be forgotten. This marred an otherwise great on-field performance. As a charter Jaguar season ticket holder, I was ashamed and insulted.

From now on, I will no longer wear any NFL or team apparel, and I invite others to do the same. If I decide to attend another game, I will not be wearing teal. I will wear red, white and blue to honor those who are the real heroes in our country. The only real hero I saw this weekend was Pittsburgh Steeler and fellow veteran Alejandro Villanueva who stood to honor our flag and country. God Bless America!

### Ronald "Doc" Renuart, COL (USA-ret)

Ponte Vedra Beach (submitted Sept. 25)

# SJC Republican Party to host Sen. Ted Cruz, Rep. Ron DeSantis Oct. 6 at Sawgrass Country Club

The St. Johns County Republican
Party will host Sen. Ted Cruz
(R-Texas) and Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL6) as guest speakers at a fundraising dinner Friday, Oct. 6 at the Sawgrass
Country Club. Topics of discussion will include tax reform, healthcare, the ongoing Russia investigation and other critical issues facing the United



n. Ted Cruz

States today.

Having recently announced a summary of his proposed tax plan to overhaul the nation's tax code, Cruz will present his position on reform, which revolves around three ideas: flat, simple and fair. His overall plan echoes President

"We've been given a historic opportunity, an opportunity to produce incredible results for the men and women who elected us," Cruz said in a high-profile speech recently hosted by the conservative Tax Foundation. "The promise to remodel our antiquated, bureaucratic, ineffective tax system with the objective of creating more jobs, higher

Trump's outspoken agenda for helping the middle class,

reducing corporate taxes and creating more jobs.



Rep. Ron DeSantis

DeSantis continues to show his support of Trump with his proposal to put an end date on the Russia investigation and his "Drain the Swamp Act." Modeled after the reforms called for by then-candidate Trump, the Drain the Swamp bill is intended to toughen current bans on officials lobbying the government after their federal service,

to alter the incentives for government officials and to slow the revolving door between Capitol Hill and K Street.

"I thank President Trump for taking the lead on reforming Washington, and I hope we can pass this bill quickly," DeSantis said.

Together, Cruz and DeSantis have introduced legislation regarding congressional term limits, which the president has supported and continues to advocate for.

The Oct. 6 dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include a Texas-style barbecue, cash bar and silent auction. A VIP meet and greet (\$250) will precede the event at 5:30 p.m. General tickets are \$100. For tickets and more information, visit http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oe idk=a07eeguaaoq4c95d36e&llr=w4ee549ab.

# CTTF Board readies Ponte Vedra-Palm Valley traffic study surveys

The Citizens Traffic Task Force Board (CTTF) is planning to collect input on the results of the Ponte Vedra Traffic Study that was released in April 2016 by circulating two surveys in the coming weeks.

The study, commissioned by St. Johns County and the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), analyzed roadway conditions East of the Intracoastal Waterway from J. Turner Butler Boulevard in the North, to Mickler Road in the South. It ultimately recommended short-term improvements (over the next five years) and long-term improvements (projected out to 2040) to intersections and roadways that could ease traffic congestion in the area. Considering next steps, the CTTF Board agreed that a community survey be implemented to collect input about the potential changes from as many residents and businesses in Ponte Vedra Beach and Palm Valley as possible.

wages, more opportunity."

Based on the recommendations presented at the public hearing April 25 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, there are two areas that the CTTF Board believes should be surveyed separately. The first area focuses on the short-term improvements that can be made to intersections that should improve traffic flow and safety at those locations. The second area focuses on the long-term recommendation to widen A1A and Mickler Road/ CR210 by an additional two lanes.

The first survey will be circulated Oct. 9 through the emailing lists of the Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition, the Ponte Vedra Community Association, the Palm Valley Community Association, the Ponte Vedra Municipal Service District, the North

Ponte Vedra Beaches Coalition and the Sawgrass, Marsh Landing and Players Club homeowner's associations. That survey is intended to collect input from residents on the proposed intersection improvements.

The second survey, to be circulated Nov. 13, will ask for input on the proposed widening of A1A and Mickler Road/CR 210.

Area residents are encouraged to complete both surveys. By doing so, they will assist the CTTF Board in prioritizing the individual projects and help determine which improvements, if any, should be made. To obtain a link to the survey, contact your local HOA or organization.



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Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017 COMMUNITY NEWS 5

# Ponte Vedra author reveals 'secrets of longevity'

### By Samantha Logue

As the president of Petros Estate & Retirement Planning and the founder and president of Woman's Worth, LLC, Ponte Vedra Beach resident Jeannette Bajalia has a wealth of knowledge regarding future planning. In her new book, "Planning a Purposeful Life: Secrets of Longevity," she reveals the secrets behind how many men and women have continued to live happy, healthy lives well into their 90s.

"Longevity is the ultimate double-edged sword," Bajalia said. "Who doesn't want to live longer, if a high quality of life can be maintained? If we have our health, our family and friends, and a compelling reason to get out of bed each morning, longevity becomes a great thing. Unfortunately, it also brings with it the very real and frightening risk of outliving one's money."

As a retirement planner, Bajalia advises men and women every day on the steps they should take to ensure their financial security after they have left the workforce.

"Many of the clients that I serve currently, when I say, 'We need to create plans to make sure you don't run out of money if you live to 90 or 100,' most people don't believe they're going to live that long," she said.

"But the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population is the 90-plus segment."

Recognizing society's growing need for effective longevity planning, Bajalia decided to ask some nonagenarians and centenarians about their secrets to success.

"I wanted to hear from the 90-plus generation, so I spent two years interviewing them," she said. "I wanted to learn what they do differently, what they attribute their longevity to, and a lot of it is simple living and a healthy lifestyle."

According to Bajalia, her interviewees' lifestyles not only allowed them to enjoy physical health, but also financial health, into their 90s and beyond.

"That generation tends to keep moving, and they overlook life's obstacles," Bajalia said. "They have strong mental health, strong physical health, strong emotional health and strong spiritual health, so they are able to not worry about running out of money, because they're keeping themselves healthy and well."

Bajalia found that this realization tied in with the subject of her previous book, "Wi\$e Up Women," which addresses the connection between a woman's health and her wealth.

**LONGEVITY** continues on **Page 12** 

# PVPV-RAWLINGS HOLDS PEP RALLY IN ANTICIPATION OF TURTLE TROT



Photo courtesy of PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School

PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School students received a short break from classroom learning Sept. 28 to rally for the Turtle Trot, an annual event presented by the PTO and Coastal Luxury Outdoors that encourages fitness and exercise while raising funds to support the school. The pep rally was held to generate excitement for the Oct. 12 Turtle Trot and mark the kick-off to the two week long fundraising effort leading up to the event. This year, the school's goal is to raise funds for upgrading technology in the media centers at both campuses and for purchasing printers and projectors for teachers and staff. The school also hopes to provide sports balls for each grade level and additional shade structures for both playgrounds, as well as generate enough funds to fulfill the requests of the art and music resource teachers. With funds being collecting through Oct. 13, children are encouraged to raise awareness of the program via social media outlets, with the help of their parents. Last year, through the help of social media and online donations, the school gathered support from over 20 countries. To view more pictures, and videos from the 2017 Turtle Trot Pep Rally, please visit http://pvpvrawlingspto.wildapricot.org, or check out the PTO's facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/pvpvrawlingspto.

# Pink Ribbon Golf Classic to again raise money for breast cancer research, treatment

# By Benjamin Naim

Organizers of the 11th annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic are attempting to raise at least \$150,000 this year for local breast cancer research and related services.

To reach that goal, the nonprofit kicked off its efforts Oct. 4 with a Tee Off Cocktail Party at Marsh Landing, which featured a silent auction fundraiser, food and cocktails.

The series of fundraising events continues with the area's only all-women charity golf tournament at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club Oct. 12 that will include over 100 female participants. Taking place from 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the day of the tournament will feature a light breakfast, a luncheon and a speaker and short video package detailing the importance of Pink Ribbon's fundraising efforts.

The organization's events will conclude with a Nov. 16 trunk show and check presentation at 6 p.m. at Underwood's Jewelers, where 10 percent of all sales of David Yurman Jewelry will be donated to the nonprofit (Other local businesses will be donating to the cause.). Representatives from both Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville and Baptist Medical Center Beaches will attend the check presentation to announce the total funds raised by Pink Ribbon this year.

To date. Pink Ribbon has raised over

\$1,200,000, with event proceeds distributed each year to Mayo and Baptist Beaches.

"We are trying to give these two institutions in Jacksonville the extra money they can use to offer cutting-edge treatments and make some research breakthroughs," said Sara Strom, a volunteer who leads the organization's publicity efforts.

Pink Ribbon's website notes that past contributions to Baptist Medical Center Beaches have helped purchase state-of-theart equipment, such as a SenoClaire breast tomosynthesis with three-dimensional imaging technology, an x-ray pathology unit, a digital mammography unit and more.

Meanwhile, Pink Ribbon has supported Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville's Breast Cancer Genome Guided Therapy Study, the research of Sarah A. McLaughlin, M.D., Edith A. Perez, M.D. and the purchase of a biopsy system.

Strom explained that a group of ladies at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club started Pink Ribbon after their friends were diagnosed with breast cancer.

"I think everybody's motivation is a little personal," Strom said. "Part of it is you have friends who have survived cancer, and you have friends who have not survived. I had a very dear friend who died back in 2011; she was diagnosed 11 years before with a very aggressive form of breast

cancer, and Mayo Clinic kept her alive for 11 years."

Strom said Mayo did "wonderful work" for her friend, who lived long enough to see her child graduate from high school, then graduate from college and get married.

"Lots of people have stories like that — their mothers, their sisters, their dear friends — so it's very personal and very inspiring," she added.

For more information on the Pink Ribbon Golf Classic, including how to register or donate, visit www.pinkribbonjax.org.





Desiree Kotze is a longtime Ponte Vedra resident who is a new realtor with RE/MAX Specialists. Originally from Cape Town, South Africa, Kotze has a fascinating story that she was happy to share with the Recorder.

# Desiree Kotze

# By Jon Blauvelt

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

I received a bachelor's degree in fine arts at Stellenbosch University, one of South Africa's oldest universities that is known for its idyllic wine lands. After university, a recruitment company hired me as a headhunter, and many years later, I started my own recruitment company named Plus Personnel. When our twins (Mica and Amoré) were born, I closed my business and went back to work as a recruiter.

My husband and I planned in 1991 to "owner build" a 5,550 square foot house in Plattekloof for our family. I designed the house, we started building in 1992 and a few weeks later, we found out my husband had cancer. My husband went through a few operations and chemo treatments that made him very ill. I had no choice but to see the whole process of owner builder through, since we stood to lose everything if I did not. Today the house "Desiree" built is one of the busiest bed and breakfasts in Plattekloof.

In 1996, my husband, who recovered from his illness, was recruited on an H1B visa as a computer contractor to work on Y2K projects in the United States. We lived in Atlanta and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, our first two years, and then we found our home in Ponte Vedra Beach when my husband was sent to Jacksonville. I soon started volunteering through our church and local schools. I was on the founding PTO for Ponte Vedra High School as the volunteer coordinator. At Nease High School, I served as the teacher appreciation coordinator for the IB program teaching staff.

One day, a friend asked me to be a substitute teacher for her at Episcopal Preschool, and I stayed for six years. Eventually, I left to volunteer as the director of the children's and youth ministry at the International Community Bible Study Group, also known as CBS (Ponte Vedra Branch).

# What inspired you to become a realtor?

Like my other jobs, people would ask me or tell me I can do something, and I would try it. That is exactly how I became a realtor. A number of people told me I would be a great realtor, and I thought, "Why not?"

I have literally lived through every possible scenario regarding realty: renting locally and abroad, building locally and abroad and buying existing homes locally and abroad. Experience alone qualified me to have great empathy and understanding for what my clients need and the emotions they are experiencing. Or so I thought. Most people do not realize that being a realtor requires education and staying on top of the constant changes in the industry.

### What's the most rewarding part about your job?

The most rewarding part is meeting people from all walks of life. I love holding open houses for that very reason. Listening to stories and hearing what the homebuyers value is very educational.

I also enjoy seeing the joy on clients' face when you find them that buyer who loves the seller's house as much as the seller does. The day you close on a listing is pretty awesome too.

# What is the most challenging part of your job?

Real estate is much more technology driven today, and it is very competitive in a relatively small market like the Beaches.

To stand out, you need to use all of the tools: Facebook, websites, monthly newsletters, blogging and more. Many realtors do what they call "buying leads" from places such as Zillow or Realtor.com. Those leads are very expensive, and if you are a relatively new realtor, you cannot afford to employ people to run your Facebook page or manage and build your website. So, you have to rely on your sphere of influence, including the friends and family members you hope will refer you, because they value your integrity and hard work.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

### **Desiree Kotze**

### How would you characterize the state of the real estate market in Ponte Vedra?

The single family housing market and rentals went fast during the spring and summer. I want to stick my neck out and say that if you listed a house in 2017 from February through August in Ponte Vedra Beach, Nocatee, Jacksonville Beach, Neptune and Atlantic Beach, your realtor most likely had an offer on that house within 21 days.

On the buyer's side, if you were looking for a resale or soon ready to move in new construction, the pickings were slim, and you had to know exactly what you needed and move fast when you found it.

In Nocatee alone, more than 100 homes went under contract from July to September. I have recently read that resales have dropped in September by a small percentage, but the market is still very ripe for selling and buying. It is really a good time to list in October for November with out-of-town visitors coming for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

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

I LOVE living in Ponte Vedra Beach and have lived here for 20 years! Ponte Vedra really has everything to offer for everyone (except a night life for the young adults, which makes it an awesome place to raise teenagers).

I love that nobody in Ponte Vedra or Nocatee is really from here. If you do meet someone who grew up here, they are unpretentious, and they have the best stories to tell you of the days when Ponte Vedra was only an island with no AC or even power.

Ponte Vedra is like a little secret (or so it used to be) oasis in North Florida. It's a place where you go to Starbucks and the nail salon, and everyone knows you and you know everyone, even if you haven't been to their homes.

We even have the best medical care here, with Mayo Clinic and Baptist Medical in our backyard. Not to mention, there are great colleges and schools.

To watch a video portion of the interview, visit pontevedrarecorder.com and click One of Us.









**PONTE VEDRA E** 

\$1,545,000





All properties listed are in Ponte Vedra unless otherwise noted











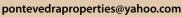












# Thursday, Oct. 5

# Friday, Oct. 6

# Sunday, Oct. 8

### **Yoga for Survivors**

The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Oct. 5 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

### **Adventures in Art**

The first Adventures in Art program will be held Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 101 Library Blvd. and will feature Debra Murphy, PHD and chair/professor of art and design at the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of North Florida. Murphy will present "Facelift of Two Grand Florentine Museums: Revisiting the Uffici and the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo." Adventures in Art is sponsored by Cummer Beaches, an affinity group of the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, and by Friends of the Library, Ponte Vedra Beach. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, call (904) 280-2976.

# **Full Moon Sail**

Enjoy a moonlit evening aboard the Schooner Freedom as it sails through St. Augustine's Matanzas Bay. This sailing excursion departs from the St. Augustine Municipal Marina. There will be live music, complimentary beer, soda and wine. The sail departs Oct. 5 at 7:45 p.m. Visit www.schoonerfreedom.com for more information or call (904) 810-1010 to book a reservation.

# Sunset/Moonrise at St. Augustine Lighthouse

Enjoy the sunset and moonrise from the top of the lighthouse. The \$30 admission includes a champagne toast. The St. Augustine Lighthouse is located at 81 Lighthouse Ave.

### **Coastal Wine Market wine tasting**

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

# Penumbra: The Space between Light and Dark

The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach will hold an opening for a new exhibition entitled "Penumbra: The Space between Light and Dark," from 6-8 p.m. on Oct. 6. This exhibition features work by Jullianne French, Masha Sardari and Debra Mixon Holliday. The three artists span a vast range of mediums, specifically photography, monochrome transfers and print making. On display until Nov. 3, the exhibition promises to be deeply emotional and meditative. The works come together as they explore humanity, nature and architecture. The opening reception is free and open to the public. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way.

# **JCVA Fall Exhibition**

An opening will also be held Oct. 6 at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach for the Jacksonville Coalition of Visual Artists (JCVA) Fall Exhibition. To be held from 6 to 8 p.m., the event in the center's Scene Gallery is open to the public, and admission is free. Guests can meet the artists, listen to live music by Eva Ullmann and purchase original works by local artists. With the exhibit on display until Nov. 3, works will be judged by Jason John, an associate professor of art from the University of North Florida.

# First Coast Classic Dancesport Championship

The First Coast Classic Dancesport Championship will take place at the Renaissance at World Golf Village in St. Augustine Oct. 5-7. The event will feature ballroom and latin dancers from around the United States and beyond who will compete for \$100,000 in cash prizes. Spectator tickets are available for day and evening sessions starting at \$25. To purchase tickets, call (904) 339-9219. Visit www.firstcoastclassic.com for more information.

# Players by the Sea gala

Players by the Sea will host an end-of-the-season fundraising event, The Curtain Call Annual Gala, Oct. 7 from 7 to 10 p.m. at 106 N. 6th St., Jacksonville. The event will feature silent and live auctions, dinner, an honoree program and live entertainment. VIPs will be welcome at a special sponsor reception preceding the event from 6-7 p.m. Individual tickets to the event are \$65 or \$120 per couple and are available at www.playersbythesea.org/curtain-call.

Saturday, Oct. 7

### **Therapy Animal Expo**

Therapy Animal Coalition (TAC), a local organization that brings together therapy-animal training, registration and on-site programs, will host its second annual Therapy Animal Expo from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 7 at the Schultz Center. David Frei, the longtime voice of the Westminster Kennel Club and national dog shows, will deliver the keynote address. The expo is a humans-only event, except for service dogs. Admission is \$15 per person and \$10 for those 60 and older and for youth age 18 and younger. Tickets are available at www.TherapyAnimalCoalition.org/Expo. The Schultz Center is located at 4019 Boulevard Center Drive, Jacksonville.

### **Fantasy Farms open house**

Fantasy Farms, a nonprofit private animal preserve on Roscoe Blvd in Ponte Vedra Beach, is holding an open house for friends and future friends of the farm Oct. 7 from 1 to 3 p.m. For further information and directions, go to www.fantasyfarmsevents.org. Fantasy Farms is located at 194 South Roscoe Blvd.

# **Envirofest 2017**

Join the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens, in partnership with the Jacksonville Environmental Protection Board, for the fourth annual Envirofest on Oct. 7. Envirofest is an event that seeks to cultivate curiosity, respect and understanding of the Jacksonville community's shared natural environment and the plant and animal wildlife in around the city's neighborhoods. Guests will enjoy live music, interactive booths, eco-friendly and hands-on art activities and more. For more information, call Amber Sesnick at (904) 899-6034.

# **Blessing of the Pets**

Bring your pets to St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church Oct. 8 for a blessing in celebration of St. Francis. This is for the 7:30 and 10 a.m. services inside the church. Pets that are not on a leash should be crated.

# **Kats 4 Keeps adoption day**

Looking for a new friend? Kats 4 Keeps is holding an adoption day Oct. 7-8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 935B A1A N., Ponte Vedra Beach. For more information, call (904) 834-3223.

### **Life Enrichment Group**

The Life Enrichment Group is designed for those with memory changes who want to remain mentally, physically and socially active, while giving caregivers and loved ones some free time for themselves. The program is offered daily, serving the Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra area. For more information call (904) 417-7354 or email life\_enrichment-group@yahoo.com.

# Salad and Sangris in the Sukkah

Chabad @ the Beaches will host a special Oct. 8 event in which Jewish women from across the Beaches area are invited to "Salad and Sangrias in the Sukkah." Participants will enjoy an evening in the sukkah with an array of salads, complemented by sangrias and Sukkos fun. The event will take place at Chabad from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$10; interested guests must RSVP in advance online at ChabadBeaches.com or via email to Dafne@ChabadBeaches.com. No synagogue affiliation is necessary. For more information about this program, call Chabad @ the Beaches at (904) 543-9301.

### **Datil Pepper Fall Festival**

Celebrate St. Johns County's official plant, the Datil Pepper, at this festival taking place at the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Agricultural Center from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free. The event will feature vendors, a plant sale, an amateur Datil Pepper hotsauce contest and more. The Datil Pepper Fall Festival will take place at 3125 Agriculture Center Drive.

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CALENDAR 9 Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017

# Monday, Oct. 9

# Tuesday, Oct. 10

# Thursday, Oct. 12

# **MOSH Daily Programs**

Join Jacksonville's Museum of Science and History for its Daily Animal shows. On Monday at 2 p.m., explore "Skin and Scales" in the Florida Naturalist's Center, where guests learn about the cold-blooded world of reptiles and amphibians. Prior to the program at 1 p.m., museum-goers can witness the exploration of space in the Bryan-Gooding Planetarium during "Astronaut," an interactive venture led by a test astronaut named Chad. For tickets and additional information, visit www.themosh.org.

### Friends for the Arts

Get involved in the arts by joining a team of fellow art supporters at the Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach. Help develop and support fundraising projects and help initiate special projects to benefit and promote the cultural center and the arts in the community. For more information, visit www.ccpvb.org/friends-for-

# **Alzheimer's Association Caregiver College session**

This is an interactive workshop hosted by the Alzheimer's Association in which participants will discuss tips for caregivers on what they need to know, what they need to plan and more. All programs will be held at noon on Mondays through Oct. 30 at the Ponte Vedra Memory Center located at 1048 A1A N. Call (800) 272-3900 to RSVP; seats are limited.

### **Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida**

The St. Augustine/Jacksonville Newcomers Club of Northeast Florida will hold "Trivia Evening" Oct. 9 at 6 p.m. Contact Lea at (904) 829-0643 for more information on event location and how to RSVP

### **Savory Faire Food & Wine Tasting Tour**

The Savory Faire Food & Wine Tasting Tour starts at 1:30 p.m. and departs from Tour Saint Augustine at 4 Granada St. The daily tour passes through renowned local restauarants and unique eateries. Advance reservations are required; visit www.staugcitywalks.com to book a spot. Tickets cost \$59.

# **Free Admission at Cummer Museum**

Every Tuesday, the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens offers visitors free admission to its galleries and gardens through its "Florida Blue Free Tuesday" promotion. The Cummer Museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville.

### Ponte Vedra forum on World War II

Local historian Scott Grant will present about a World War II Nazi U-boat attack off the coast of Jacksonville Beach at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library Oct. 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. Organized by The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Library, Grant's presentation will detail the night an American oil tanker was torpedoed and sunk by a Nazi commander 75 years ago. The Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.

### **Prenatal Yoga**

Prenatal Yoga, taking place at the Y Healthy Living Center at 170 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach, is a class for women to empower themselves through yoga, meditation and guided visualization. This approach is gentle and safe for women in all stages of pregnancy. Interested participants should bring a yoga mat, tower and water to class. There is a \$13. entrance fee per attendee. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax.com/hlc to register.

# Ask the Expert: Cancer Fighting Foods

Join YMCA registered dietician Kelly Schooley to learn how certain foods play a role in cancer prevention. This free event is open to the community. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit baptistjax. com/hlc to reserve your spot. The Y Healthy Living Center is located at 170 Landrum Lane.

# **Archaeologist James Delgado** at Flagler College

Maritime archaeologist James Delgado, who is the senior vice president at Search, Inc., will reveal the secrets of three underwater shipwrecks discovered in the Gulf of Mexico in a presentation entitled "Sunk by a Hurricane: the Discovery and Exploration of Three Deepwater Shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico." The event will take place at Flagler College's Lewis Auditorium at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

### **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.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

### **Newcomers of the Beaches luncheon**

The women of the Newcomers of the Beaches group are inviting new members to a luncheon on the second Wednesday of each month. The next luncheon will be held Oct. 11 at the Sawgrass Golf Country Club. Newcomers of the Beaches is a social club for women who have recently moved to the area and are looking for new friends and interesting activities. Visit www.newcomersofthebeaches.com to make a reservation.

# **Exercise program at THE PLAYERS**

THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center will provide an exercise program on Wednesdays and Fridays through Dec. 1 from 2 to 3 p.m. The class is free of charge and open to the public. Exercises will consist of low impact physical activity programs suitable for every fitness level and ability. THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane, Ponte

# **Wednesday Market**

Each Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 60 to 80 vendors participate in the Wednesday Market at St. Augustine Beach. Vendors and artists display produce, prepared foods, local seafood, art, crafts and more. The Market is held at the St. Johns County Pier Park at 350 A1A Beach Blvd, St Augustine Beach.

### **Family Storytime Class**

Spark a love of reading and learning at this all-ages storytime class for children and their caregivers. Storytime ends with a themed craft designed to work on fine motor skills. This event will take place at the St. Johns County Public Library's Southeast Branch, located at 6670 U.S. 1 South in St. Augustine.

# **Yoga for Survivors**

The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a "Yoga for Survivors" class Oct. 12 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. baptistiax.com/vmca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum

# **Adventures in History lecture**

Regional historian David Nolan will host a presentation entitled "Adventures in History" at the "Evenings at Whitney" event, presented by Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. The lecture is free and open to the public and will take place at 9505 Ocean Shore Blvd. in St. Augustine at 7 p.m.

### 'The Full Monty' at Limelight Theatre

The Limelight Theatre's season opens with this pop-rock musical. Based on the cult hit film of the same name, "The Full Monty," a 10-time Tony Award nominee, is filled with honest affection, engaging melodies and the most highly anticipated closing number of any show. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. General admission to the show is \$26 for adults, \$24 for seniors, \$20 for military and students. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.limelight-theatre.org. Limelight Theatre is located at 11 Old Mission Ave. in St Augustine.

### **Afternoon tea at Corazon Cinema** and Cafe

The Corazon Cinema and Cafe presents afternoon tea featuring seasonal savories, sweets and classic tea favorites, plus a screening of the movie "Gosford Park," which is the inspiration for the TV series "Downton Abbey." Reservation seating times are at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$45. Visit www.corazoncinemaandcafe.

Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to recorderintern@opcfla.com, post online at www. pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.

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October 2017

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### An Open Letter to Our Beaches Neighbors

On behalf of the Atlantic Beach Country Club's Board of Directors and Membership, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the residents, businesses and government officials of the Beaches communities for your support during the Web.com Tour Championship that concluded this past weekend.

We are honored that the PGA Tour once again selected Atlantic Beach Country Club to host this year's Championship. It is a reflection of our quality course and club amenities, as well as the uniqueness of the Beaches community, which demonstrated the best of Southern hospitality in welcoming the tournament's golfers, spectators and national media.

In particular, we would like to thank the Atlantic Beach Police Department and Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department's Engine Company 55 for protecting the safety and well-being of all those who came to enjoy the tournament. It was certainly a collective endeavor, from the 400 tournament volunteers and residents who opened their homes to players and caddies, to local police, paramedics, firefighters and elected officials.

In addition to exposure on national television and in the local media, it is estimated that the tournament contributed \$5 million to the Beaches communities and Jacksonville local economies. We are equally proud to be associated with an organization like the Web.com Tour, which supports 50 local charities, most notably its main beneficiary – Wolfson Children's Hospital.

Again, thank you for your support and we look forward to an ongoing partnership with the Web.com Tour Championship and the PGA Tour.

Bryan Croft
President
Board of Directors
Atlantic Beach Country Club

Robert A. Stone, Jr., CCM, CCE General Manager/COO Atlantic Beach Country Club





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# ST. JOHNS CARES KIDS DELIVERS 9/11 'NEVER FORGET' BANNER AND DINNER TO LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

St. Johns CARES Kids delivers its annual 9/11 "never forget" banner and dinner to Fire Station 18 in Nocatee on Sept. 17. The event was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma. St. Johns CARES is a nonprofit organization committed to helping local charities and those in need through donations and time.

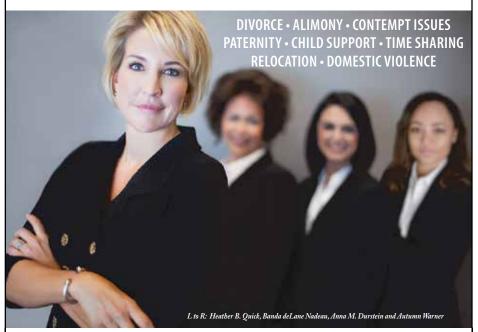
Photo courtesy of Katrine Strickland







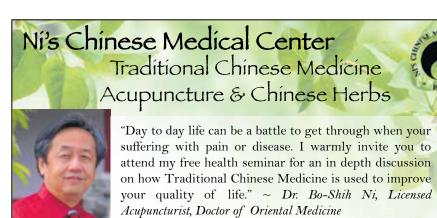
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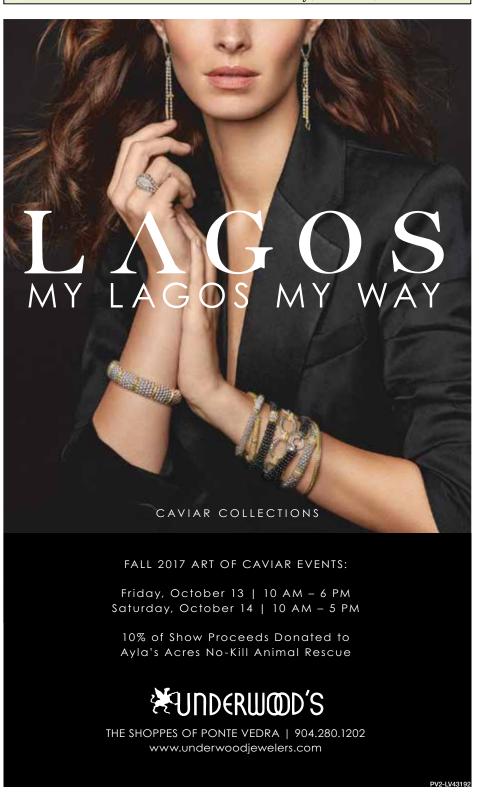
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# Ironman triathlete receives hero's welcome from Nocatee neighbors

# By Samantha Logue

Iron Man may be the name of a popular Marvel superhero, but Nocatee resident Patrick Schultz has his own claim to the title after having successfully completed the Ironman Chattanooga triathlon Sunday, Sept. 24.

"I've done a number of shorterdistance triathlons in the past, including a half Ironman, and I recently retired, so this was a great way to fill out all that available time I had," Schultz said. "It was kind of a bucket list item for me to try to do an Ironman."

The 11th race in the Ironman U.S. series, the Ironman Chattanooga – in Tennessee – includes a 2.4-mile swim down the Tennessee River, followed by a 116-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile run. While there were 1,980 participants in the race, only 15 were in Schultz's age group of 65 to 92. Schultz, who is 66, finished 10th in that age group, clocking in at 15 hours, 21 minutes and 24 seconds.

"It was incredibly rewarding," he said of the experience. "As you are going across the finish line, they shout out, 'You are an Ironman!' It gets very emotional after you've been out there for 15 hours."

The emotional roller coaster ride wasn't

over for Schultz, however. A member of Nocatee's age-restricted Artisan Lakes community, he was shocked when he returned home Sept. 26 to find signs, banners, balloons, flags and his entire neighborhood ready and waiting to congratulate him on his big achievement.

"I was not expecting it," Schultz laughed. "It was a lot of fun."

Schultz's dedication to achieving his goal was well-known throughout the Artisan Lakes community.

"I watched him for nine months, training every day, and he completed the race and it's just awesome," said Schultz's next-door neighbor, Carol Martin, who helped to organize the surprise. "When somebody does something like that, how can you not want to throw a party?

Artisan Lakes at Nocatee is a gated, active adult community for residents age 55 and older, and although it just opened last year, one might think the residents have been neighbors for years.

"There's already a great community feel to it," Schultz said. "Our neighborswe've only been here a year, and they're putting out posters for me and giving me a warm welcome, so we've really bonded, and it's a great community. We really



**Residents of Artisan Lakes at Nocatee celebrate** Patrick Schultz's completion of the Ironman Chattanooga triathlon upon his return home.

Having officially crossed the Ironman off his bucket list, Schultz said that he intends to move on to other activities now.

'It was a remarkable experience, but I don't think I'll do it again," he laughed. "It was a 'one and done' for me."

# Longevity

"Women are living so long, that many of them will be living beyond 90," Bajalia said. "If you're going to live beyond 90, you need to focus on preserving and maintaining your health, because you don't want to be spending all of your retirement assets in the healthcare system."

Bajalia said that some of the key pieces of advice that she received from her more than 25 interviewees included "don't sweat the small stuff" and that it's important to keep focused on a purpose.

"They all reported that their friends who are no longer with us, when they retired, they didn't have anything to retire to; they didn't have a purpose, and they got sick very quickly," she explained. "I asked them, 'What suggestions would you give to people currently thinking about retirement?' and they said, 'Don't retire from something unless you know what you're going to retire to."

"Planning a Purposeful Life: Secrets of Longevity" is now available for purchase in bookstores and at Amazon.com. For more information about the author, visit www.womans-worth.com or call (904) 824-5656.

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PV OCEANFRONT Homesite • \$759,000 Michael Curet



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 4BR/3.5BA • \$1,490,000 Natalie Bryant



MARSH LANDING 5BR/6BA • \$1,220,000 Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 3BR/2BA • \$565,000 Susan Fort or Tyler Ackland



4BR/4BA • \$1,498,000 Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



**PALERMO** 4BR/3.5BA • \$688,000 Mary Faulds/Valerie Shaw



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 3BR/2BA • \$735,000 Joan Swanson



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 4BR/3BA • \$489,000 Belk Ingram/Parme Tietze



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 4BR/3.5BA • \$580,000 Suzie Connolly



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 5BR/4.5BA • \$925,000 Kathleen Florvan



**MANDARIN** 4BR/4BA/3HB • \$2,490,000 Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



FRUIT COVE 5BR/5.5BA • \$2,950,000 Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 5BR/5BA • \$2,500,000 Jayne Young/Gwinn Volen



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 2BR/2BA • \$485,000 Kathleen Florvan



PONTE VEDRA BEACH 4BR/4.5BA • \$1,250,000 Kathleen Floryan



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October 2017



ST. JOHNS CHAMBER

Recorder



# **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR**



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

Fall is in the air as we come to the end of another fiscal year. To say the least, the summer has been filled with lots of excitement. The 15th Annual Ponte Vedra Auto Show was a huge success for the Chamber. Cars were lined up starting at 6:30 a.m. to register, with the show officially beginning at 9 a.m. Vendors were unloading before daybreak, and food trucks were cooking up fare to attendees starting the minute they arrived. The Jaguars won in London, and all in all it was a beautiful day celebrating some of the area's most prestigious cars right here in our backyard.

It's important for me to take a moment to thank all the people that made this event a truly fantastic experience. Year after year, the return of participants continues to grow, the judges ensure that the integrity and prestige of the show continues, and the spectators come out in droves (This year, we welcomed close to 2,800 in attendance.) Our volunteers are the backbone of this event,

and we cannot thank you enough for your dedication to the Auto Show and the SJC Chamber of Commerce.

Another group of individuals that must be recognized is our ambassadors and the PVB Division Board of Directors. We are so fortunate to have such committed individuals serving in this capacity. I would like to formally thank our board members who have completed their term in office: Dave Danzeisen (Clean Getaway Car Wash) as immediate past chair and Steven Beyer (VyStar). We will miss you and thank you for your years of support to the PVB Division.

Beginning Oct. 1, we welcome two new board members to the division board: Lori Adams (Cabi,) who previously served as one of our ambassadors, and Nancy Hallett (Gateway Business Advisors). These two dynamic women will be joining new Board Chair Susan Griffin (Ponte Vedra Recorder), Vice Chair Rob Schlingmann

(The Plantation) and Secretary Sarah Alexander (Berkshire Hathaway). Stepping down from his post as chair, Ed Mercel (Coldwell Banker Vanguard) now will serve as immediate past chair. Jennifer Belisario (TPC Sawgrass), Rachel Landis (THE PLAYERS), Janet Collins (Sawgrass Country Club), Wiam Battah (Ruth's Chris) and Gloria Dongara (AAA-The Auto Club Group) complete the slate of board members for the upcoming year.

Having been with the Chamber as your director of the PVB Division since mid-March, I've seen how our dedicated board members, volunteers and staff work closely through crisis and celebration. We are an organization that is thriving because of our members, and we look ahead into the next fiscal year to ensure that credibility, visibility, advocacy and prosperity continue to be the driving force in everything we do. I encourage you to get involved and look forward to seeing you out and about!

# CHAMBER PRESIDENT THANKS OUTGOING PVB DIVISION IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

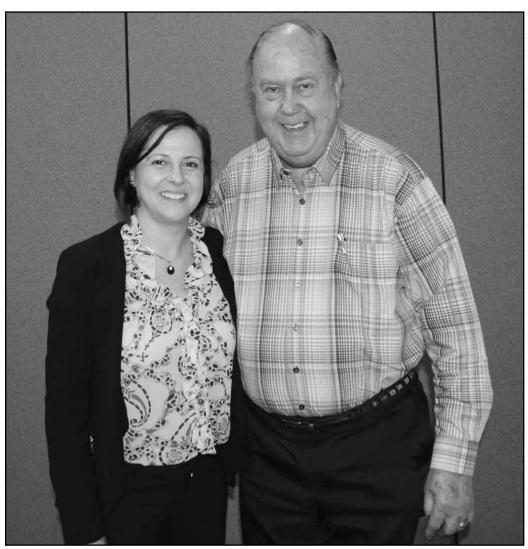


Photo by Susan Griffin

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Isabelle Rodriguez expresses her gratitude to PVB Division Immediate Past Chair Dave Danzeisen for his term in office and service to the community.

# MATT PRICE RECEIVES 'CRUSHING IT!' AWARD



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division Director Toni Boudreaux presents Ambassador Matt Price with the "Crushing It!" award, which is given to the chamber member that has made the most of his/her membership.

CONNECTIONS 15 Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017

# Meet the Ponte Vedra Beach Division 2017-2018 Board of Directors

The St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce welcomes the 2017-2018 board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division. The incoming 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.

# **CHAIR Susan Griffin Ponte Vedra Recorder**

Susan Griffin is the publisher of the Ponte Vedra Recorder, the community newspaper of Ponte Vedra and the Beaches since 1969. Griffin also serves as the publisher of the bi-monthly First Coast Register magazine. The



Register covers First Coast social events, as well as fashion, dining and home décor trends throughout the year.

Griffin started her career in the publishing field over 20 years ago when she joined the Recorder as an advertising account executive. She later served as the paper's sales manager before being named publisher. Prior to joining the Recorder, Griffin owned travel agencies in Florida and

Griffin is very active in the community and participates in many events to benefit charity. She has been active in the Chamber's PVB Division since 1997, serving for many vears as the chair of the ambassador committee. She has been awarded the Ambassador of the Year, Pat Morgan Outstanding Service and Chamber Member of the Year awards.

In addition to the Chamber, Griffin currently serves as the vice president of the board of directors for the Community Papers of Florida. She is also a member of the board of directors for the Overlook V office condominiums and a member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach Sunset.

# **VICE CHAIR Rob Schlingmann** The Plantation at **Ponte Vedra Beach**

Rob Schlingmann is the general manager and chief operating officer of The Plantation at Ponte Vedra Beach, where he reports directly to the president and has full responsibility for

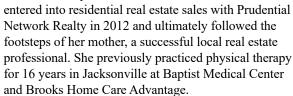


the club, which in high season has a staff of more than 140 employees in 16 departments. In addition to managing all club operations, he oversees all functions of the Plantation's homeowners' association.

Schlingmann has more than 30 years of experience in the private club industry. Before moving to Ponte Vedra, he worked at The Apawamis Club in Rye, New York, where he was the general manager and chief operating officer for almost 11 years. He previously was employed as the general manager of the Rehoboth Beach Country Club in Delaware for almost five years. He started his career as a clubhouse manager at Kiawah Island Club in South Carolina.

# **SECRETARY** Sarah Alexander **Berkshire Hathaway Home Services** Florida Network Realty

is a real estate agent at Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Florida Network Realty. She



Alexander has been a member of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce since 2013. She served as an ambassador of the PVB Division in 2014 and the communications/ribbon cutting coordinator in 2015. She has since served on the board of directors for the PVB Division.

A fourth generation Jacksonville native and Episcopal High School graduate, Alexander grew up in Ortega and moved to Ponte Vedra Beach in 1979. She has a strong interest in the promotion and economic growth of Ponte Vedra Beach and St. Johns County and is proud to serve on the PVB Division board.

•••••

Sarah Alexander



# **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT Ed Mercel Coldwell Banker Vanguard Realty**

Ed Mercel is a successful realtor with a penchant for network building in both



sales and property management. He has more than 19 years of experience in the real estate industry, working for a number of leading real estate firms and property management divisions.

Prior to entering real estate, Mercel was an internationally recognized producer and director whose credits include producing and/ or directing drama, variety and children's programming as well as seven Olympic games.

Mercel is a past president of the local chapter of the National Association of Residential Property Management.

In addition to serving on the board of directors for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, he serves on the board of directors for Beth El Synagogue.

.....

# **Lori Adams Harbor View** Advisors/cabi/ **TPC Sawgrass**

Lori Adams is the operations manager for Harbor View Advisors, a boutique investment banking firm in Ponte Vedra Beach. She is also a



cabi part-time fashion stylist, as well as a part-time employee of TPC Sawgrass as a sales associate in

Adams has 35 years of experience in the financial services industry, with specializations in client service, operations and compliance. She has worked as a cabi fashion stylist since 2010 and at TPC Sawgrass since 2000.

Adams is a former ambassador for the SJC Chamber PVB Division and received the Grace Haves Ambassador of the Year award for 2014-2015. She is also a member of the Ponte Vedra Women's Alliance, for which she has served on the board in previous years.

# **Nancy Hallett Gateway Business Advisors**

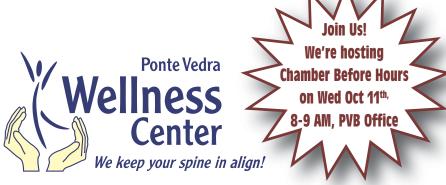
Nancy Hallett manages customer relations, business valuation and marketing to buyers, and in general keeps everyone at Gateway on task.



Previously, she has been a small business owner, founded a small private investment group and worked closely with the principals of a large family-owned private business. She has worked on M&A transactions with a Fortune 100 company, helping to lead that company through integration efforts in finance and operations. Hallett's education background is in accounting, and her business career has been in accounting, administration and operations.

> **MORE PVBD BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON PAGE 16**

**16 CONNECTIONS**Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017



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# **MORE PVBD CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



# Janet Collins Sawgrass Country Club

Janet Collins has worked as the director of member services at Sawgrass Country Club since 1998.

She is in charge of strategic and tactical marketing and membership development, budget management and vision, promotional presentations and web development. Collins has been a PVB Division Board member for two years. She was also president of the Northeast Florida Professional Club Marketing Association (PCMA) from 2009-2015.



# **Jennifer Belisario** TPC Sawgrass

Jennifer Belisario is the director of sales and marketing at TPC Sawgrass, where she has worked for seven years.

Previously, she was employed at the Four Points by Sheraton as the director of sales and marketing. She also worked as the marketing director at the Jacksonville Golf & Country Club, where she was responsible for increasing the non-resident membership base by 100 percent in only one year.



# **Rachel Landis** THE PLAYERS Championship, PGA Tour

Rachel Landis is a senior sales manager at the PGA Tour, where she has been recognized as Employee of the Quarter.

Previously, Landis worked at Folio Weekly as an event manager and senior account representative. She also has worked at On The Mark Promotions as an account executive and on President Clinton's advanced staff. Landis began her career at the Association of Surfing Professionals as a sponsorship coordinator.

Outside of her professional career, Landis has served as a social committee chair at the Museum of Science and History and as part of the restaurant committee at Caring Chefs, benefitting the Children's Home Society.



# **Wiam "William" Battah** Ruth's Chris Steak House

Wiam Battah is the general manager of Ruth's Chris Steak House, where he has worked for 12 years. Under his management, Ruth's Chris won the 2015 Leadership Award and has won many service awards.

Battah graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a bachelor's degree in police administration and then went on to serve five-and-a-half years in the U.S. Army. After that, he ran three restaurants before deciding to go back to school. He graduated from

the California Culinary Academy with a Bachelor of Applied Science in restaurant/culinary management.



# Gloria Dongara AAA- The Auto Club Group

Gloria Dongara is the AAA life & annuities specialist at the Ponte Vedra Beach branch, where she helps clients with their life insurance needs.

Dongara has more than 23 years of experience in corporate America, with a background in insurance sales, anti-money laundering, client services and cash management. Prior to AAA, she worked as a financial services professional at MassMutual Financial Group and as a sales manager at Family Heritage.

A resident of Ponte Vedra for over 25 years, Dongara has served as a St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce ambassador, in addition to her current role as a member of the board of directors for the PVB Division.

Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017 CONNECTIONS 17

# **Business recovery tips post-Hurricane Irma**



Isabelle Rodriguez

**By Isabelle Rodriguez**President and CEO,
St. Johns County Chamber

of Commerce

In the wake of Hurricane Irma, St. Johns County's business community seems to have suffered less damage

and is rebounding faster than it did a year ago after Matthew.

However, many of you still suffered damage. There are businesses that have not been able to reopen, and certainly many of you are experiencing economic hardship as many of your businesses have suffered decreases in revenue.

In this article, I'll walk you through some of the most helpful "tools" you can use as we continue to bounce back. But before we get to that, remember to fill out the disaster assessment survey at the Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center (FLVBEOC) at http://flvbeoc.org/index.php if your businesses suffered any damage related to the hurricane, even if it is seemingly insignificant relative to previous disasters. This information is used to determine the

needs and level of assistance needed for impacted businesses throughout our area.

# Employers experiencing loss of revenue, physical damage

Emergency Bridge Loan

The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) recently launched the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program to help businesses get back on their feet.

The bridge loan program supports those impacted by Hurricane Irma by providing short-term, interest-free loans up to \$50,000 to small businesses that experienced physical or economic damage during the storm. Applications for this program must be completed by Oct. 31, 2017.

Apply online at www. floridadisasterloan.org. For more information about the bridge loan, call the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at (850) 898-3489 or email Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org. You can also contact our local representative Marge Cirillo at (800) 450-4624 or m.cirillo@unf.edu.

# Disaster Unemployment

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program provides assistance

to businesses and residents whose employment or self-employment was lost or interrupted as a result of Hurricane Irma. Apply today at https://goo.gl/sLLFyK.

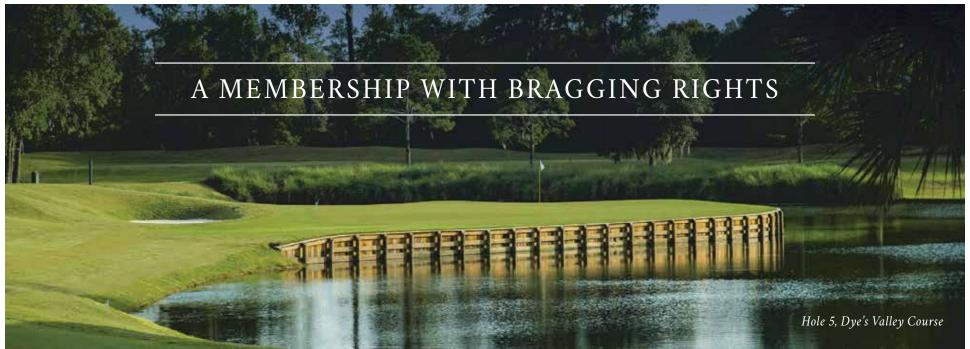
### Long-Term Disaster Assistance Loan

For a longer-term loan, consider applying for a SBA (Small Business Administration) Loan. The U.S. Small Business Administration has declared St. Johns, Duval, Flagler and Putnam county businesses and private nonprofit organizations eligible for both Physical

and Economic Injury Disaster Loans up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery, equipment, inventory and other business assets. Interest rates are as low as 3.305 percent for businesses and 2.5 percent for nonprofit organizations with terms up to 30 years. The deadline to apply for physical property damage is Nov. 9, 2017, and the deadline to apply for economic injury is June 11, 2018. Apply online at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.

IRMA continues on Page 18





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18 CONNECTIONS

### Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017

# PONTE VEDRA BEACH DIVISION AMBASSADOR **CHAIR**

Ricki Taylor is an assistant vice president and mortgage loan originator with Synovus Mortgage, located in the Synovus Bank headquarters at Gate Parkway.

A veteran of the mortgage business for 30 years, Taylor has managed underwriting, processing and shipping, affording her a unique perspective and the ability and expertise to handle even the most complicated loans. She is able to help clients throughout the Southeastern United States and specializes in jumbo loans and portfolio products. She has expertise in all facets of lending and often gives advice to real estate professionals in difficult situations.

Taylor has been a top producer for Synovus Mortgage for more than 19 years and was recognized by the Jacksonville Business Journal as a "Five Star Mortgage Professional." Her dedication to service, coupled with her expert knowledge,

creates an exceptional experience for borrowers and serves as a reliable source for builders and realtors. In addition to serving as chair of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division's ambassador board, Taylor serves on the membership committee for the Jacksonville Beach Chamber. She also volunteers her time with the Gamma Phi Beta sorority chapter at Jacksonville University. She is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

The American Banker magazine rated Synovus Bank one of "America's Most Reputable Banks," based on customer scores. Forbes ranks Synovus Bank as one of the "Top 50 Most Trusted Institutions."

Taylor's father was a career Air Force officer. Her oldest son is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, and her youngest son is in medical school at the University of Florida.



**Ricki Taylor** 

# Chamber welcomes new Ponte Vedra Beach Division ambassadors

As the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce begins its 2017-2018 year, the Ponte Vedra Beach Division extends its appreciation to those members who have agreed to serve as chamber "ambassadors," representing and championing the Ponte Vedra Beach Division at chamber events and out in the community.

### **Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassador Board**

**CHAIR Ricki Taylor** 

Synovus Mortgage

**VICE CHAIR Amy Miller** 

Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR** 

**Matt Price** Regions Bank

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH CHAIR** 

**Brian Anderson** Fluffy Cuts

### **Ponte Vedra Beach Division Ambassadors**

**ROBERT A. BAER** 

Robert A. Baer Co.

**JOSH HULL** 

VyStar Credit Union

**MOLLIE MALLOY** 

K9s for Warriors

JENNIFER HOOPER O'NEAL

MosquitoNix

### **VICTORIA LONG**

United Way of St. Johns County

### **SEAN SCULLION**

First Coast Media Group

**ELLEN TAYLOR** 

ServPro

### **Employers whose employees** are not back to work

### Dislocated Worker Program

Dislocated Worker Grants are awarded to local workforce offices for temporary employment to workers affected by major dislocations, including Hurricane Irma.

Disaster relief employment can be in the form of temporary iobs to address structural and humanitarian needs of residents of an area that has suffered a federally declared emergency or major disaster. Connect with your workforce office here: http://www. careersourcenortheastflorida.com.

# Register for Disaster Assistance

Residents who sustained losses can apply for assistance by registering online at www. DisasterAssistance.gov.

Residents who suffered damages from the storm should register now; the application will be processed automatically. Please share this information with your employees who may have suffered losses from Hurricane Irma.



Photo by Ed Johnson

Many, if not most of you, were prepared for Irma and thanks to your preparation, we have now been able to adjust our focus from helping businesses recover from physical damage to helping them recover from the economic injury caused by a disaster.

### Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA)

FEMA may provide TSA to eligible disaster survivors who are unable to return to their homes and have a continuing need for shelter after the congregate shelters have closed.

This initiative is intended to provide short-term lodging for eligible disaster survivors whose communities are either uninhabitable or inaccessible due to disaster-related damages. Find out more here: https://www.fema. gov/transitional-shelter-assistance.

### Individuals and Households Program

FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) provides financial and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs.

Eligible expenses include rental assistance, lodge expense reimbursement, home repair assistance, personal property assistance, transportation, etc. IHP is not a substitute for insurance and cannot compensate for all losses caused by a disaster. Rather, it is intended to meet the survivor's basic needs and supplement disaster recovery efforts.

Read more about the Individuals and Households Program at https://goo. gl/1q51z7.

Finally, I want to thank Florida Power & Light (FPL) and JEA, who have worked diligently across our state to return power to their customers. The pre-hurricane preparations and hard work by thousands to restore our electricity after Irma have gone a long way toward helping us get back to business!

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# 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe wins top honors at Ponte Vedra Auto Show

A 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe received the Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic award at the 2017 Ponte Vedra Auto Show Sept. 24, claiming one of the event's most coveted prizes.

Owned by Mark Becker, the acclaimed automobile was one of more than 150 classics and collectables on display at the 15th annual event hosted by the St. Johns County (SJC) Chamber of Commerce at the Nocatee Town Center.

In addition to Becker and his coupe, Rob Sewell received the "Porsche for the Spirit of It!" award for his 1997 Porsche Carrera S, and Mitt Layton won the award commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Shelby Super Snake with his 1968 Shelby GT500KR. In total, participants vied for 31 awards at the Auto Show, which was presented by Fields Auto Group. The event, which ultimately hosted about 2,800 visitors, was originally scheduled for Sept. 10 and postponed due to Hurricane Irma.

"Despite having to reschedule, we are very proud to have been able to host this event for the community and everyone who visits to see these incredible automobiles," said Isabelle Rodriguez, president and CEO of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. "Thanks to our partnership with Fields Auto Group and our other great sponsors, this Auto Show has been our best yet."



Karen Everett, Ricki Taylor, Lori Adams and Cindy Bishop sell Auto Show apparel at the 15th annual event.

To find out more about the Ponte Vedra Auto Show, visit www. pvautoshow.com or call the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach (PVB) Division at (904) 285 2004. To find out more about the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce, visit www.sjcchamber.com. The Ponte Vedra Auto Show is funded in part by the St. Johns County Tourist Development Council.

For more on the Auto Show, including additional photos, visit Pontevedrarecorder.com.



ABOVE: Visitors look at classic cars on display at the 2017 Ponte Vedra Auto Show.

LEFT: Mark Becker sits inside his 1936 Chrysler C-9 Airflow Coupe, which was named the event's Wells Fargo Advisors Best in Show Classic.

Photos by

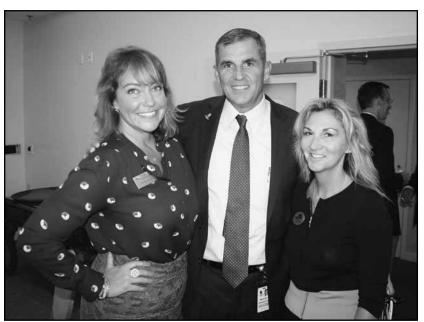


Photo by Jon Blauvelt

St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce PVB Division Director Toni Boudreaux, Wounded Warrior Project CEO Mike Linnington and Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Beaches Division Manager Kathy Sutton

# Wounded Warrior Project CEO gives Chamber of Commerce members positive forecast for organization

Originally published July 20

### By Jon Blauvelt

Exactly one year after driving from Arlington, Virginia, to Jacksonville to take over Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) as its next CEO, Mike Linnington told a group of local business professionals July 13 that he's optimistic about the future of the nonprofit organization.

"We're on the right track," said Linnington, referring to the organization's recovery from news reports claiming it took part in lavish spending outside of its mission. "We have a long way to go in overcoming that stigma.

Luckily, we have a really great organization with dedicated passion and commitment to our wounded service members in trying to make a difference."

Linnington's comments about the organization were addressed 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 joint luncheon held at Sawgrass Country Club. WWP offers a variety of programs and services for wounded veterans of military actions following Sept. 11, 2001.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Jenny McKeithen, Randall "Smitty" Smith and Beth Bolton

# **WWP**

Continued from 19

The retired three-star general with 35 years of military service said at the July luncheon that WWP was about 60 or 70 percent back to where it was prior to the news reports surfacing. As a result of the speculation that ensued about the organization, Linnington said WWP has made it a priority to

be more transparent, noting that the organization's financials are now included on its website.

"Hopefully that transparency and focus on the good work we do will start to bring back the rest of the support that's starting to come back down," he said

When asked about the organization's vision for the next five years, Linnington said WWP will likely invest additional resources in physical health and wellness services. He said the organization's veterans who were young in the early 2000s are not so young anymore, and they're struggling with immobility, isolation and overindulgence of medications, resulting in poor physical health.

He noted that 86 percent of the wounded veterans they provide services to are overweight or obese. Linnington said that so much emphasis as of late has been placed on mental health, implying that physical health has taken somewhat of a back seat.

The WWP CEO also provided attendees of the luncheon with a general overview of the organization's reach. He said the nonprofit, which has physical presences in 25 United States cities, serves over 104,000 wounded service members and more than 20,000 family members of those service members. More than 2,400 of the organization's warriors are located in the Greater Jacksonville area, he noted.

Linnington boiled down the organization's work to three words: connecting, serving and empowering. He said the organization connects its warriors with each other. Then it serves them through a variety of free programs and services focused on physical and mental health and wellness and economic empowerment that are provided by WWP, other nonprofits or government agencies. Linnington said these programs then ultimately empower the warriors to once again become fully functioning members of their communities.

"The WWP logo shows one service member being carried off the battlefield by another service member," he explained. "At the end of the day, we want all of our transitioning veterans to go from being that veteran carried off the battle field from visible or invisible wounds and ultimately be a warrior that's leading peer groups and being active in their communities."

Linnington added that WWP provides 100 percent of the resources required for 700 of the nation's most previously wounded individuals to help them remain in their homes. He said the nonprofit pours a few million dollars a month into these in-home services, which include physical therapy, speech therapy and respite care, among others.

Linnington also encouraged business professionals at the luncheon to keep his warriors in mind as job opportunities surface at their respective companies.

"As you see opportunities for wounded service members to make a difference in your businesses or communities, please connect with us," he said. "Just as they led in the Army, Navy, Air Force, marines and Coast Guard, they can equally lead in communities."

For more information about WWP, visit https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/.

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Photo by Susan Griffin

Toni Boudreaux (from left), Stephanie Bedsaul, Lynn Kettell-Slifer, Emily Slifer and Ed Mercel participate in the Health Partners LLC ribbon cutting.

# Health Partners LLC joins SJC Chamber of Commerce

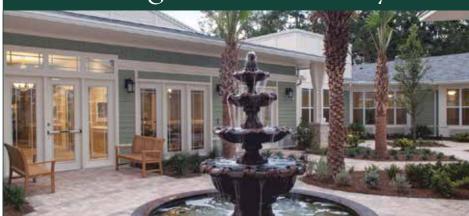
Health Partners LLC, a recently opened functional medicine practice in Ponte Vedra Beach, celebrated joining the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon cutting ceremony June 26.

Located at 100 Executive Way across from PVPV-Rawlings Elementary School, the new practice provides area residents with a "relationship-focused" option that staff members say bridges the gap between traditional, prescription-based primary care

and alternative treatment.

"We go upstream from where symptoms are, and we do more than just treat symptoms," said founder Lynn Kettell-Slifer, a family nurse practitioner with experience in preventative care, healthcare for the uninsured, medical missions and hospital oncology. "We are really passionate about the health of our patients. This is about working together with the patients to optimize their health in a true partnership."

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# Local officials share accomplishments from recent legislative session at chamber breakfast

Originally published Aug. 3

### **By Jon Blauvelt**

Providing bonuses for St. Johns County teachers, increasing state-wide funding for mental health and substance abuse and revising and improving Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida were among the accomplishments of the 2017 legislative session shared by local officials at the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Council breakfast

Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, Sen. Travis Hutson, Rep. Paul Renner and St. Johns County Commission Chair James Johns provided these updates to business leaders from around the county at the Chamber event at the Renaissance in World Golf

Hutson shared highlights from HB 7069, an education bill that he played a large role in writing. Most notably, the state senator shared that the bill will extend the Best and Brightest Scholarship Program, resulting in several bonuses for "effective" and "highly effective" St. Johns County teachers. 850 teachers will qualify for \$800 bonuses this year, next year and the year after, he said. 1,300 teachers, he continued, will qualify for \$1,200 bonuses each of the next three years. An additional 200 teachers, he stated, will qualify to receive \$6,000 bonuses each of the next three years.

Hutson explained that other results of the bill include conducting a study to replace the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) with another federally funded test that is more suitable for teachers; allowing schools more flexibility to shift the schedule of their testing; expanding funding for the Gardiner Scholarship, which supports kids with rare diseases and disabilities; and requiring 20 minutes of recess each day for kindergarten through fifth grade students. One controversial aspect of the bill, Hutson noted, is the fact that it allows high-performing charter schools to establish more than one charter school in any year if it operates in the area of a persistently low-performing school and serves kids from that school.

The state senator also reported that the 2017 legislative session resulted in increasing the Bright Futures Scholarship for a child from 50 percent to 100 percent tuition reimbursement.

"If your child qualifies for Bright Futures, the state of Florida is going to pay the way," Hutson said, adding that this will take effect next year. "We want you in and out in four years with well-paying jobs so you can come back and contribute.'

Rep. Stevenson provided a high-level overview of the state budget, sharing that it only increased by less than a quarter of a percent, or less than \$10 per person.



Sen. Travis Hutson (from left), St. Johns County Commission Chair James Johns, Rep. Cyndi Stevenson and Rep. Paul Renner participate on the EDC panel July 28.





**ABOVE: Emily** Stimler, John Eaton, Aaron Emmel and Kyle Murdock

**RIGHT: Chamber** President/CEO Isabelle Rodriguez

> Photos by Jon Blauvelt



he said he played a part in improving: Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida. Enterprise Florida, he explained, is

a program in which taxpayer money is given to private sector companies to lure them into Florida or keep them within the

In the past, he said, this money has been given to companies with more than 1,000 employees, leaving many small businesses out to dry and creating a system of "winners and losers." In addition, he said tax payers generally expect their tax dollars to be used for something that can help them, and this wasn't always the case with Enterprise Florida.

With the revised bill, Renner explained that the monies now can't be used for any single company; they must be distributed to a multitude of companies to allow for competition. In addition, he said the tax monies must be devoted to either

infrastructure or workforce development.

**ABOVE: Alex** 

Acree, Mike

Koppenha-

fer and Erik

**LEFT: Heather** 

**Denise Hagan** 

and Mary Ann

Sciartelli,

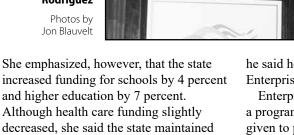
Steinberg

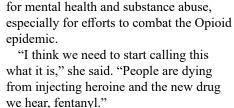
Kasper

Renner said that the legislature's recent efforts on Visit Florida, the state's official tourism marketing corporation, have resulted in more stringent accountability measures to ensure money for the program is being used for advertising.

St. Johns County Commission Chair James Johns concluded the presentations by discussing a recent trip he took to Washington, D.C., to meet with representatives from various federal agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Federal Emergency Management Agency and others. When he first received an invite for the meeting, he thought it was a prank.

'This administration says that they do not feel like they have communication lines with local governments, and they





strong priorities, enhancing funding

Among several other items of local, state and federal interest. Stevenson noted that St. Johns County will benefit from \$13.3 million in funding to repair damage to its beaches post-Hurricane Matthew, and overall, she said several state employees will receive pay raises for the first time in 10 years.

Rep. Renner discussed two programs

BREAKFAST continues on Page 23

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# TPC Sawgrass hosts 'After Hours' event for Chamber

TPC Sawgrass hosted an "After Hours" networking event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, July 19.

After work, Chamber members and their guests were invited to the TPC Clubhouse to chat, mingle and take in the views of the famed and picturesque golf course. Attendees were also served complimentary hors d'oeuvres



Clare Berry, Mark Ryan, Michael Lenahen, Andy Scott and Greg Totten



**ABOVE: Chris** Goerge with Nancy and **Gary Hallett** 

**RIGHT: Kim** O'Steen and **Karina Corvell** 

Susan Griffin





Rocky Nightingale, Kelly Green, Beth D'Augerot, Bryan Fazio and Jennifer Hooper O'Neal

# **Breakfast**

wanted to change that," Johns said. "We were all blown away."

During a question and answer session at the end of event, Johns also discussed his stance on the potential implementation of a bed tax to generate additional revenue for the

'One of the most important things to me is not just generating revenues to meet our needs but making sure we're all on the same page as to what the end result is expected to be," he said. "I want to make sure that place we're intending to spend it is where you want it spent when we collect it. And so, if this is the mechanism by which the majority of the people want an issue resolved, then I would gladly support that effort.'

On a similar note regarding a potential increase to the county's sales tax, Johns said following the breakfast he needs the majority of the county to support it before he will, and he also wants more clarity to be established concerning how those monies would be spent.

"I don't want to spend people's money without knowing where it will be spent," he said.

The next EDC breakfast is Nov. 17.



Karsten Jacobson, Sarah Alexander, Toni Boudreaux and Steven Beyer

# Jacobson discusses economic perspectives at Chamber at Noon' luncheon

The current economic climate was the focus of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division's "Chamber at Noon" luncheon June 21.

Held at Sawgrass Golf Club, the luncheon featured Edward Jones financial advisor Karsten Jacobson, who discussed timely market topics and potential investment strategies.



Alexander helps Toni **Boudreaux** select the door prize winner during the luncheon.

Photos by









Photo by Susan Griffin

The My House Fitness team participates in a ribbon-cutting ceremony as part of its grand opening event.

# My House Fitness opens in Ponte Vedra Beach

# **By Jon Blauvelt**

A new My House Fitness franchise is now open in Ponte Vedra Beach.

Located at 2 Fairfield Blvd. (Suite 4) in the same plaza as Starbucks, the gym held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, July 27. The business "soft" opened in the end of June.

According to Doug Siewart, the

franchise's co-owner and one of its personal trainers, the gym specializes in individualized personal training that focuses on the goals and schedules of its clients. He said clients work oneon-one or in small groups with trainers, explaining that the small group option affords people the opportunity to train

MY HOUSE continues on Page 26



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**26** CONNECTIONS Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017



Photo courtesy of St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce

Felicia Cox, Toni Boudreaux and Dr. Erika Hamer

# Ponte Vedra Beach Division hosts 'Chamber at Noon' event

The Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted speaker Richard Goldman at the Sawgrass Beach Club in Ponte Vedra Beach Wednesday, Aug 16.

The executive director of the St. Johns County Visitors & Convention Bureau, Goldman presented "How Tourism Affects You" at the "Chamber at Noon" event, which was sponsored by the Browning Agency.



Karen Zander and Carole Everitt



**Cindy Bishop and Ken Smith** 



# Isabelle Rodriguez, Richard Goldman and Toni Boudreaux.

# Berkshire Hathaway hosts Chamber networking event

Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty hosted a "Before Hours" networking event July 12 for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber members gathered at the real estate company's Ponte Vedra Beach office for conversation and a continental breakfast. The event was sponsored by Sarah Alexander, the incoming secretary of the Ponte Vedra Beach Division Board of Directors. Door prizes were given, and coffee and pastries were provided.



Toni Boudreaux, Ed Mercel, Sarah Alexander and Dr. Erika Hamer

# **BHGRE Lifestyles** Realty opens new office in Nocatee

# By Samantha Logue

Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate (BHGRE) Lifestyles Realty has joined the evergrowing list of businesses to migrate into the Nocatee community. The company celebrated the opening of its new office with a ribbon-cutting ceremony July 10.

"Everybody knows the name 'Better Homes and Gardens,' and they usually know it from the magazines and the cookbooks, but we really want people to be thinking of us as a solution to help them out with more things in their life," said Daniel Lewis, a broker associate at Lifestyles Realty.

With other offices located in Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach, Lifestyles Realty's Nocatee office is its third branch. According to Lewis, the company's name is derived from its mission to help families find not only the homes that they want, but more importantly, the lives

"We don't want to find out from people just how many bedrooms and bathrooms they want," Lewis said. "We want to find out what it is they do in their life and match them up with a place that they're going to be able to achieve the lifestyle that they want to live."

Lewis said that Nocatee - with its many luxurious amenities seemed an ideal location for such a business, and he is looking forward to showing the local residents everything Lifestyles Realty has to offer.

"We want to intertwine ourselves with the community and really feel like we're supporting that community," he said. "Right now, we're only the third real estate company in all of Nocatee ... We feel like we're a breath of fresh air from all of the things that people are more used to, and we're opening up a lot more resources in every facet to be the real estate company of the future."



The BHGRE Lifestyles Realty team participates in a ribbon cutting ceremony July 10 with Chamber of Commerce members.

# My House

with their spouse, significant other, sibling or friend.

"We really try to hone in on what they're trying to accomplish, and we make it adaptable to their schedule," he said. "You tell us when you want to be here, and we'll be here."

The franchise owner explained that the gym is essentially redesigned for each training session. Most of the equipment, he said, lines the walls of the

gym, leaving the middle of the facility wide open. For each session, however, trainers move the necessary equipment for that particular client or group of clients from the wall to the middle of the facility to personify the mission of providing clients with customized training plans.

For more information about the new business, call (904) 834-

"It's about the individual goals and schedules of the clients," Siewart reiterated. "We're making it available for clients to live fit for the rest of their lives.'

CONNECTIONS 27 Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017

Jim Kelly

# **Pivot CPAS** hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event

event for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Attendees enjoyed food and drink from food trucks and Victory Beer and St. Augustine Distillery, as well as music from Jim Kelly.



**George McCaughan, Clare Berry and Greg Totten** 





ABOVE: Kim O'Steen and Jill Fennessey

LEFT: Brian Anderson, Jennifer Belisario and Mark Berman

Photos by Susan Griffin







Ryan Williams, Brian Leeds and Nahid Sabet

# The Pineapple Corporation hosts Chamber 'After Hours' event at model home

Luxury home builder The Pineapple Corporation hosted an "After Hours" networking event at one of its model homes at The Vista at Twenty Mile in Nocatee Wednesday, Sept. 27, for the Ponte Vedra Beach Division of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce.

Attendees enjoyed conversation and building relationships while touring the model home. The Vista at Twenty Mile is characterized by its Spanish architecture and is located in Nocatee's Twenty Mile neighborhood just west of the Intracoastal Waterway.



**Karen Chartier and Carol Maurer** 





**ABOVE:** Amanda Johnson and **Malcolm Anthony** 

**LEFT: Spencer Calvert and Kurt Morgan** 

Photos by Susan Griffin



Susan Griffin



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THE ART OF PERFORMANCE



Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017 IN THE ARTS 29

# St. Augustine Orchestra chair to mentor Ponte Vedra High students in jazz

# By Samantha Logue

The St. Augustine Orchestra will kick off its 2017-2018 concert season this month by featuring the works of American composers, and orchestra chairman and bassist Mitch Kolesaire is excited.

"Our seasons run from September to May," he said. "The first concert of the season is Oct. 13, it's a Friday evening, and it's at Anastasia Baptist Church, and we're really happy that the church has been willing to host us."

While Kolesaire – who was elected chairman this past spring – is eager for the return of the concert season, he has another source for his enthusiasm this year. Throughout the school year, Kolesaire will spend his time offstage sharing his love of jazz with Ponte Vedra High School students

"I give private lessons, and one of the young men that I've been teaching is Jason Routsis," Kolesaire said. "Jay's love of bass is on the jazz side, and so he has started this year, for the first time, the Ponte Vedra High School Jazz Club. They will meet as a club before school, and I'm the volunteer to go in there and work with the kids on their jazz skills."

Although the club will be run by the students, Kolesaire said that he intends to mentor them in jazz soloing techniques.

"My first goal is to get them to fully understand the jazz blues form and be able to solo confidently with it," he explained. "I'm going to emphasize more playing by ear. I'll give them tips and techniques, but at the end of the day, I'm asking the



Photos courtesy of the St. Augustine Orchestra

Maestro Scott Gregg leads the St. Augustine Orchestra in a dress rehearsal.

kids for their opinion through the musical instrument, as opposed to having written music in front of them all the time."

Kolesaire added that the club will complement the music lessons students receive in school, and will challenge them as individual musicians.

"That's how we expand their musicianship and skill set—by giving them different challenges," he said. "They will gain confidence in standing up and taking a solo just by having the chance to do it in a fun, supportive session without a grade."

As for his main piece of advice to young students, Kolesaire said it was simply to listen to more music.

"The sooner you start listening to professional talent, the sooner you realize what you can achieve with just a little bit of work," he said.

The St. Augustine Orchestra, led by Maestro Scott Gregg, will hold its first concert of the season Friday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. at Anastasia Baptist Church, which is located at 1650 A1A South in St. Augustine. Featured composers will include Leroy Anderson, Meredith Willson, Leonard Bernstein and more.



St. Augustine Orchestra Chairman Mitch Kolesaire (right) with student and fellow orchestra bassist Matthew Shen

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$5 for students and free for children 12 and under, and will be available both at the door and online at staugustineorchestra.org.

# First Coast Opera to present 'Opera's Most Haunting Melodies'

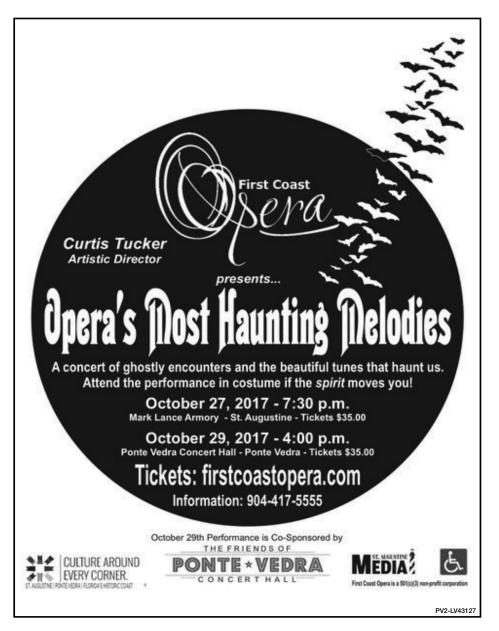
The First Coast Opera (FCO) is presenting "Opera's Most Haunting Melodies" Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mark Lance Armory in St. Augustine and Oct. 29 at 4 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.

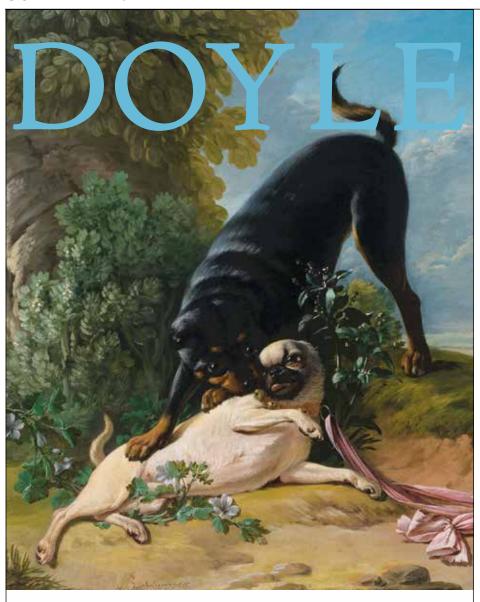
The concert will feature ghostly encounters and tunes from gypsies, phantoms, "mad" scenes and a séance. According to FCO Artistic Director Curtis Tucker, the program is intended to inspire and uplift rather than frighten.

"Many of classical music's most memorable melodies come from opera, especially in ensembles for two, three, four or more singers," Tucker said. "We're going to highlight many of them in this program, and those melodies, or 'earworms,' just may haunt audience members until Halloween."

The program will include excerpts from Rigoletto, Lucia di Lammermoor, Faust, Tosca, Menotti's the Medium, Gilbert and Sullivan and others. Headlining the cast will be soprano Kirsten Chambers, who made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the last year; Clearwater tenor Samuel Hall and New York-based baritone Ron Loyd. Joining them will be soprano Brittany Fouché from Jacksonville, mezzo sopranos Janet Rabe-Meyer from Ormond Beach and Sarah Nordin from Tampa and baritone Dirk Gavin McCov from St. Augustine. New York-based music director Keith Chambers, who conducted last season's Madama Butterfly, will play

Attendees are invited to come in costume. Tickets cost \$35 for both shows and are available at www.firstcoastopera.com.





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For more information, visit **cummermuseum.org**.







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# 'Day Without Violence' art and poetry exhibit now open at St. Johns County Administration Building

Top entries submitted by St. Johns County students who participated in the "Day Without Violence" art and poetry contest will be on display at the St. Johns County Administration Building until Oct. 27.

Betty Griffin Center has partnered with St. Johns County schools for 16 years to hold the art and poetry contest, which is also sponsored by the St. Johns Cultural Council. From all the entries, 13 pieces of art and 12 poems are selected for the

annual "Day Without Violence" calendar, which is distributed to 1,700 classrooms in St. Johns County. The calendars are also sold at the Betty Griffin Center thrift stores to raise funds for the organization.

"We received more than 1,400 entries, representing about 1,300 drawings and 100 poems, which made it extremely difficult for our judges to choose 13 drawings and 12 poems to feature in the calendar," said Betty Griffin Center Executive Director

Joyce Mahr. "The exhibit gives residents the chance to see these works of art and the ways children envision peaceful environments. The winners are presented with awards."

To sponsor the publication of next year's "Day Without Violence" calendar, contact Betty Griffin Center Development Director Nicole Pece at npece@bettygriffincenter. org.

St. Johns Cultural Council's mission

is to promote and enhance the local arts, heritage and cultural programs throughout the county. In pursuance of its role in promoting cultural activities, the St. Johns Cultural Council sponsors multiple exhibits per year.

The St. Johns County Administration Building is located at 500 San Sebastian View in St. Augustine and is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# Stand-up comedian, SNL veteran to perform at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall

The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will present stand-up comedian and Saturday Night Live (SNL) veteran Colin Quinn and his "One in Every Crowd Tour" Feb. 18, 2018. Tickets for Quinn's show went on sale Sept. 29, 2017.

Quinn's comedic experience includes stints with SNL, MTV and Comedy Central.

Tickets will be available for purchase



Colin Ouinn

at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall and St. Augustine Amphitheatre box offices, ticketmaster. com, all Ticketmaster outlets or by phone at (800) 745-3000. Doors open at

6:30 p.m., and the show starts at 7:30.





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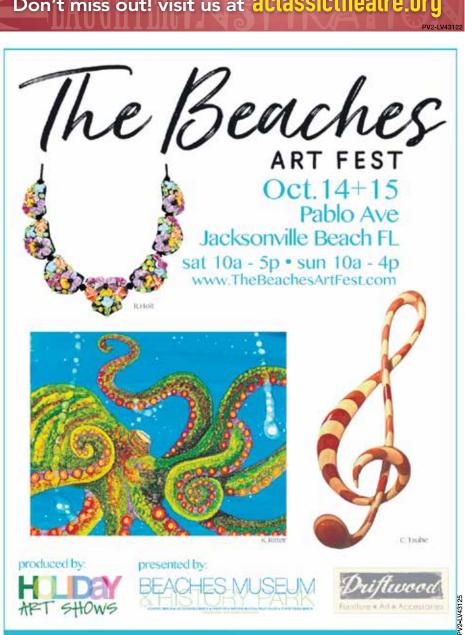
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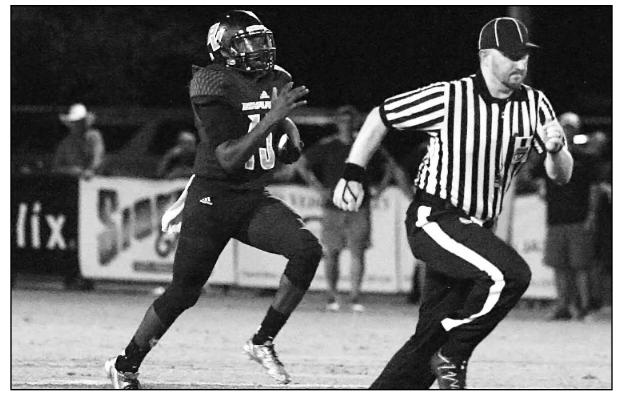


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SPORTS 33 Ponte Vedra Recorder · October 5, 2017



Vedra's Jacobi Mvers has no one but an official between himself and the Bishop Kenny end zone as he goes 80 yards for the Sharks' final touchdown during last Friday's game.

**BELOW: Ponte** Vedra's Jarrett Stepp pulls in a pass from Jack Murrah in last Friday's game.

Photos courtesy of Jerry and Chris Norton

# Photo courtesy of Jeff Heinemann

TheImageCaddy.com

Nease quarterback Preston Staples looks for a receiver during last Friday's game against Matanzas High School.

# Sharks rebound with impressive victory over Bishop Kenny

**By Jerry Norton** 

The visiting Crusaders of Bishop Kenny capitalized on a mishandled Ponte Vedra punt to score first, but the Sharks answered quickly and often on their way to a 38-22 victory at the Shark Tank on Friday evening.

After BK's opening touchdown, Ponte Vedra junior quarterback Jack Murrah led the Sharks to a 31-7 first half advantage using key passes to three different receivers. The first came on a 58-yard strike to tight end Kit Connelly, setting up Mark Calvin's 1-yard touchdown plunge.

Murrah then connected with Kyle Barker for a 49-yard gain that gave the Sharks a first down at the Kenny 18-yard line. Two plays later, the quarterback found Jarrett Stepp open in the end zone.

On Kenny's next possession, Zach Summers recovered a Crusader fumble, and Murrah and Barker collaborated immediately for a 25-yard touchdown to give Ponte Vedra a 21-7 lead.

Kenny wasn't able to mount any offense against Ponte Vedra's determined defense. and the next time Murrah had the ball in his hands, he went again to Barker—his new favorite receiver—for 26 yards and a first down in the Crusader red zone. This time, Ponte Vedra was forced to settle for a 32yard field goal converted by Riley Robbins.

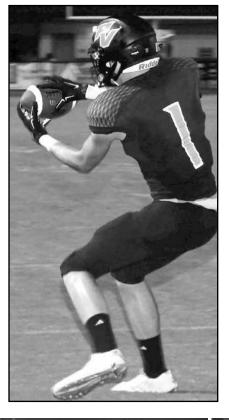
The Shark defense continued to intimidate the Crusaders. First, Connelly sacked the harried BK quarterback, and then Duncan Van Kouteren blocked an attempted Crusader punt. Reed Popp recovered for Ponte Vedra at the visitors

8-yard line, and two plays later, Calvin bowled over BK defenders to put the Sharks up 31-7 at the half.

Up by 24 points, Ponte Vedra spent the better part of the second half in a prevent defense—much to the Crusaders' delight. BK took advantage of a short PV punt to score its second touchdown and was successful on the 2-point conversion, pulling within 16 to make the score 31-15.

At this point, the Sharks gave Murrah the rest of the night off, replacing him with

**SHARKS** continues on **Page 36** 



# Nease falls to Matanzas in close game

Nease struggled with injuries and the Panthers narrowly fell to host Matanzas 17-14 last Friday night.

Preston Staples, who has been dealing with a knee injury, returned and finished 7 of 12 passing for 65 yards and three interceptions.

Star running back Jareem Westcott rushed for 82 yards on 19 carries for the Panthers. Standout tight end and LSU signee Zach Sheffer left with an injury during the game, and standout running back/receiver Ashton Wood did not play.

Nease (2-3) opens Region 4-6A play Friday night againt White (2-3, 1-0).



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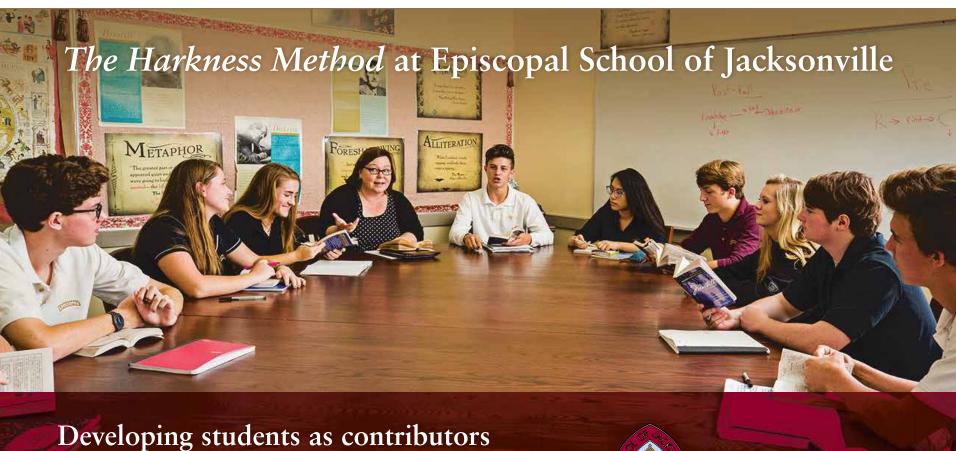
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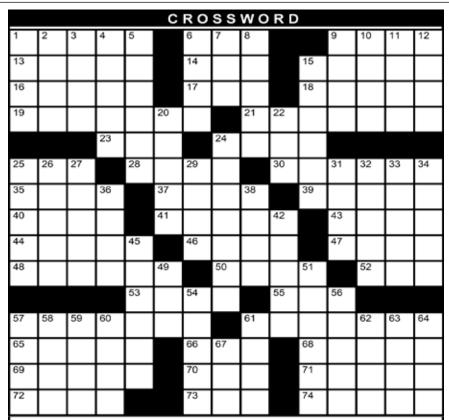
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- of the Carib-13. Saint bean
- 14 Placeholder surname
- 15. Strapping
- 16. Whatsoever
- 17. Ever, to a poet
- 18. Tree common to Pacific Northwest
- 19. \*"O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done..."
- 21. \*"Come live with me and be my love..."
- 23. Center of activity
- 24. Romanov ruler 25. It's wheels go round
- and round
- 28 Place for a hero 30. Between hexad and
- octad 35. Like a hand-me-down
- 37. Be inclined
- 39 Muralist Rivera
- 40. Hold swav
- 41. Strongboxes
- 43. F.B.I. operative
- 44. One who names
- 46. Justice's garb
- 47. "Wheel of Fortune" choice
- 48. Swell or very good 50. Antonym of "is"
- 52. Next to nothing
- 53. Metal leaf
- 55. Ship pronoun
- 57. \*"Twas brillig, and the slithy toyes..."

- 61. Study of rocks
- 66. Electric swimmer
- a pen and a given
- 71. SAG member
- 72. "Star \_
- 73 Observe
- 74. Feed the fire

### **DOWN**

- 3. Berry high in antioxidants
- 7. \*"Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary..."
- truth but it slant"
- 10 Make over
- 20. Aids and
- 22. Expression of pleasure
- 25. \*"O my Luve is like a red,
- 26. Nothing out of the
- ordinary
- 29. \*"The Owl and the
- 31. Never, or when these fly

- 65. Bye, to François Hollande
- \_-Goldwyn-Mayer 69. \*Pablo Neruda had two:
- 70. Tiny guitar

- 1. Eagle's talons
- \_ Bader Ginsburg
- 5. Ancient rabbinic writings 6. Port in Yemen
- 8.4 in a school year 9. \*Dickinson: "Tell all the
- 11 Not many
- 12. Cremation pile
- 15. Like prison cell windows
- 24. Kitchen cover
- red rose..
- 27. Alabama civil rights site
- Pussy-cat went to sea in a beautiful pea-green boat..."

- 9
- 32 Dancer's beat
- 33. "Encore!" 34. \*"Death, be not proud.

6

5

1 9

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5

- though some have called thee mighty and dreadful..." 36. Adele's "Rolling in the
- 38. Young socialites, for
- short
- 42. Common thing 45. Brownish red
- 49. Campaign pro
- 51. \*"Do not go gentle into that good night..."
- 54 Intestinal obstruction
- 56. Choose a president 57. Not in optimist's
- vocabulary? 58. Month of Purim
- 59. Ice on a window
- 60. Smell badly
- 61. High school musical club
- 62. "The Simpsons" palindrome
- 63. Get the picture
- 64. Of long ago 67. \_\_\_\_ out a living

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# Sharks

freshman Jacobi Myers. On his first play from scrimmage, Myers called his own number and busted up the middle for 80 yards and the Sharks' final touchdown.

The remaining Crusader score did little but make the final score slightly more

respectable. Murrah finished 9 for 15 for 221 yards and two touchdowns. Barker caught four passes for 122 yards, Stepp had four receptions for 42 yards and Connelly had one catch for 57 yards.

On the defensive side, Cole McCormick led the team with 13 tackles, Christian Herring had 10 and Van Kouteren had nine. Pete Merlini, Daniel Lichlyter, Connelly

and Summers each recorded a sack. The Sharks (4-1) host the undefeated St Augustine Yellow Jackets (4-0) Friday Oct. 6 in a non-conference game.

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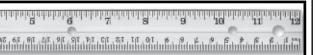
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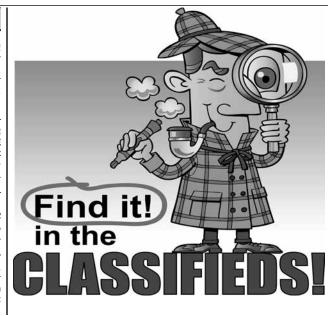
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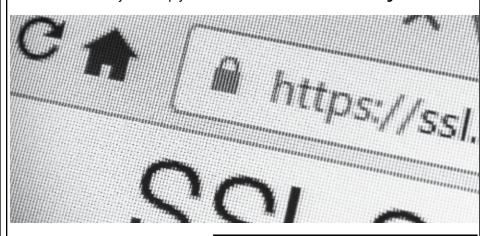
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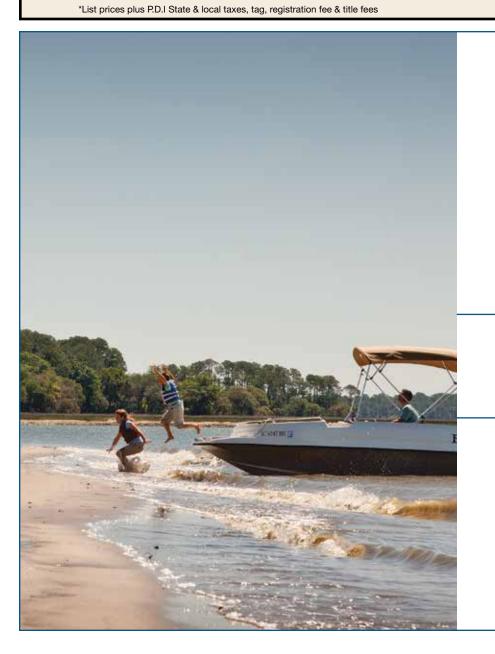
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