

Recorder

February 8, 2018
Volume 47, No. 57
75 cents

Not your average newspaper, not your average reader

PonteVedraRecorder.com

SOUP_{er} BOWL III

strikes success



Chef David Cressler from Sawgrass Country Club (right) receives the SOUPer Bowl's People's Choice Award from 2017 award winner Rich Dettra (left), who owns the Ice Plant in St. Augustine. The third annual event held at Nease High School last week raised \$29,000 for First Coast Blessings in a Backpack. Read page 12 for more.
Photo by Jon Blauvelt

Valentine's Day Guide
Pages 10-11



Business Weekly featuring Legal Eagles
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Love your Smile: Who's Who in Dentistry
Page 28



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One of Us

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Send us your news

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WHAT'S THIS?



Do you know what this is?

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

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

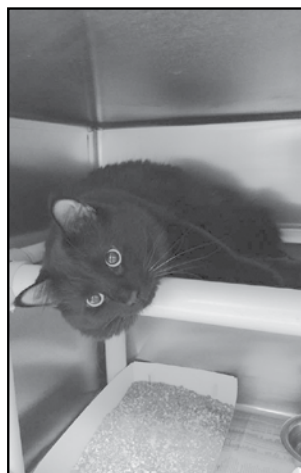
Three readers correctly identified last week's photo as the Table 1 sign. The winner of the random drawing was **Linda Reed**. Congratulations, Linda – you may pick up your prize at the Recorder office during normal business hours.



ADOPT A PET

CAT OF THE WEEK

My name is Oscar, and I am a 4-year-old cat who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as a stray, which means there may be some traits that are unknown at the time. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41537



DOG OF THE WEEK

My name is Lei, and I am a 3-year-old dog who is looking for a new home. I was brought to the pet center as an owner surrender, and I am most suited to be the only pet in the house. Come visit me today here at the pet center! #41176

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

St. Johns County Pet Center

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

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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9	8	2	4	1	5	6	7	3

Solutions correspond to last week's puzzles.

THEY'RE BACK
MARCH
2018



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AND GARDENS

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Susan Griffin
Publisher
susan@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3938

Jon Blauvelt
Editor
jonb@opcfla.com
(904) 686-3939

Samantha Logue
Reporter
samantha@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3945

Paris Moulden
Page designer/Reporter
paris@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3943

Benjamin Naim
Reporter
ben@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3941

Ed Johnson
Senior Account Executive
ed@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3940

Kristin Flanagan
Account Executive
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3950

Suzanne Kirby
Account Executive
Suzanne@opcfla.com

April Snyder
Sales Assistant
aprils@opcfla.com
(904) 285-8831, ext. 3937

U.S.P.S. (705-300) Periodical Postage Paid at Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Postmaster: Send change of addresses to: Ponte Vedra Recorder, P.O. Box 501, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, 32004. (904) 285-8831
Subscription Rates, Bulk Mail:
One year, \$35; six months, \$20. Rates not applicable in Canada or overseas. To subscribe, call (904) 285-8831.

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Ponte Vedra students wear black in response to the school's decision to redirect funds from the Mr. Fintastic charity event to the Women's March instead of Planned Parenthood, following concerns about the organization's legal nonprofit status.

Student's donation to Planned Parenthood results in community controversy, teen empowerment

By Jon Blauvelt

A recent donation by a Ponte Vedra High School student to Planned Parenthood continues to cause debate within the community, while also empowering local teens to stand up for what they believe is right.

Senior Matt Gibson decided to make the \$6,000 donation on behalf of the school after winning the Mr. Fintastic talent show on Saturday, Jan. 20. The fourth annual charity event consisted of 17 Ponte Vedra male students competing to be the funniest and most entertaining act. The event was produced by the Senior Women Club, a group of over 100 Ponte Vedra female seniors. According to club officer Sydney Burnett, approximately 600 people attended.

Each year, the event winner is awarded the ability to donate the proceeds to a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization of his choice. The participants of the event chose their desired organizations in November when planning for Mr. Fintastic began. Gibson chose Planned Parenthood at the time. Burnett said the Senior Women Officers made the school aware of these choices, including Gibson's, and no flags were raised.

Also at that time, each of the event participants decided which school club they wanted to represent for the talent show. Gibson elected to represent the school's Young Feminists Club, an organization that he said works to raise awareness of the true intent of the feminist movement. He chose Planned Parenthood because he said the organization best represents the ideals of the recently created Ponte Vedra club. He also chose the organization because he said he believes Planned Parenthood doesn't always receive the attention and support it needs.

"It was a way to give it [Planned Parenthood] support that typically would never happen, especially in a place like Ponte Vedra," said Gibson.



Sydney Burnett, Maria Gaynor, Maddie Coffey, Matt Gibson, Kayla Kelly and Rachel Walton gather after the Mr. Fintastic charity event.

Reaction from the community

A few days after the talent show, long-time Ponte Vedra resident Jeanie Leapley, whose two sons attend Ponte Vedra High School, received a letter from another parent who informed her about the donation. Leapley said a small groundswell of parents formed in opposition to the donation, and she was encouraged to write a letter to the school on the group's behalf.

Leapley wrote that letter Wednesday, Jan. 24, to school principal Dr. Fred Oberkehr, the Senior Women Club's sponsor Jennifer Lee, the Ponte Vedra High School staff and St. Johns County School District.

"I am stunned and saddened, shocked and beyond upset to hear that my sons' school, Ponte Vedra High, held an event,

In a conversation with the Recorder, Leapley said she became pregnant when she was 19, an experience that has resulted in her having strong feelings about abortion.

"I learned through that pregnancy that it really wasn't a choice," she said. "It was either I choose to become someone who takes another's life, or I give this child for adoption."

Leapley's child was ultimately adopted, she said, and now that child is a successful engineer living in upstate New York with her husband and two girls.

"She's my reminder every day," Leapley said. "There's this person that god created, and it's not in a convenient place at the time, in somebody's womb that doesn't want it. But that doesn't mean that the world doesn't want it and that the world doesn't need it."

After writing her letter to the school and district, Leapley said she decided to post it to Facebook, which she now says she partly regrets. The social media post resulted in a flurry of discussion, some in support of Leapley's words, and others strongly opposed.

Students take a stand

When Burnett initially heard about Leapley's letter, she didn't think anything would change in regard to the Planned Parenthood donation. But then she learned that Leapley had received a response from Lee, who said the donation to Planned Parenthood could not go through and that the proceeds would instead benefit the Women's March.

Burnett, the other officers for the Senior Women's Club and Gibson subsequently spoke with Lee, who directed them to Oberkehr. Burnett said the Ponte Vedra principal told the students that there were concerns about the legal nonprofit status of Planned Parenthood and whether it was truly eligible for the proceeds. In a letter

Mr Fintastic, this past Saturday night, where the proceeds went to Planned Parenthood," wrote Leapley. "How this mistake occurred does not matter, the matter is that it should never happen again."

Leapley wrote that she doesn't believe Planned Parenthood should be considered a charity, nor should parents of Ponte Vedra be subject to supporting the organization. She noted that the charity's name would imply "that all children are 'planned,'" and she encouraged those receiving the letter to consider what life would be like without those they love, who were perhaps not "planned." She ultimately felt strongly that the community's money should not go to the organization, and she wanted other parents to be made aware.

Judge lifts Outpost case out of abeyance

Ruling will allow Ponte Vedra Corp. to move forward with complaint against St. Johns County

By Benjamin Naim

Judge Michael Traynor of the 7th Judicial Circuit Court recently ordered that the Outpost case involving St. Johns County and Ponte Vedra Corporation be lifted out of abeyance to allow the Gate Petroleum subsidiary to potentially modify its complaint against the county.

Traynor lifted the abeyance at a hearing in January, which means PVC can bring forward its original complaint with the addition of a new count – a subset of the complaint – to address the county's refusal to process the developer's request for an administrative interpretation. PVC filed a motion to lift abatement in December.

PVC's attorney Amy Boulris believes St. Johns County has stonewalled the company by refusing to offer the administrative interpretation on the Outpost's conservation designation. PVC is seeking to build a 66-home residential community called Vista Tranquila on the 99-acre conservation property known as the Outpost, which is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

An administrative interpretation would offer PVC a chance to craft its Outpost proposal – based on the ruling of a county manager – before the case advances to a public hearing in front of the Planning and Zoning Agency and Board of County Commissioners.

Attorney Jane West represents those who have formed the nonprofit group Save Guana Now to fight the development, and she said PVC is pursuing a preliminary decision to circumvent the public process.

"Basically, the whole reason why there was a stay or abatement to begin with was to allow Ponte Vedra Corporation to



Photo courtesy of Lucas Peters: Aerial Photography Jacksonville

The Outpost property is located at the end of Neck Road and adjacent to the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve.

go through the normal process of pushing their application through at the county level," West said in an interview with the Recorder, "and go through all the same procedural steps that any other applicant would have to go through."

Boulris said lifting the abatement will allow PVC to amend its complaint and pursue a preliminary decision from the county.

"[Traynor] abated the case many months ago because it appeared, at the time, the county was agreeing to process the Ponte Vedra [Corporation] site plan application under the terms of the existing comp plan," Boulris said.

After Traynor held the case in abeyance, Boulris claimed that PVC encountered "continuing difficulty" with the county's development staff who "continue to refuse, in various ways, to apply the existing comprehensive plan."

The notion that the county is utilizing stall tactics and PVC is being treated unfairly is "just simply not the case," West asserted. Furthermore, the Save Guana Now attorney believes PVC is dragging its

feet on purpose.

"When the motion for the abatement was entered into last year I honestly expected within days for them to move the entire process along," she said. "Instead, it took months."

West also said the developer is not entitled to an administrative interpretation on whether the Outpost can be developed as a residential zone.

"St. Johns County is saying 'No,' that's why we have a public hearing, that's for the County Commission to decide what is the area of conservation," she added. "They want something that other applicants don't get; other applicants don't get some sort of preliminary administrative interpretation."

Meanwhile, Boulris noted PVC's motion to lift the abatement cites county code allowing a land owner to file a request for an administrative interpretation. According to PVC's attorney, the county administrator is required to offer a formal interpretation based on the county's comprehensive plan.

"Then the affected party, after he issues that formal interpretation, any affected

party can appeal it to the county commission...

"So, the whole hold up has been for years that the county has not been willing to process our application unless we would first agree to an undisclosed comprehensive plan amendment," Boulris added. "We had to sue over that."

Boulris contended that there are "two problems" with the idea that PVC can get its formal interpretation at a public hearing. The first is that PVC would be forced to craft plans without being offered a formal opinion in advance, she noted. Secondly, PVC's attorney said the county may never provide an interpretation of the "conservation" label of the Outpost property, based on its own official letter, even if the developer eschews an administrative interpretation and goes straight to a hearing.

Traynor has not yet ruled on whether the county must respond to PVC, said Boulris, but he ultimately ordered a lift of the abatement to allow the developer to move forward with its complaint against the county and seek a binding court order.



Photo courtesy of Bert Ralston

Jimmy Johns

Johns announces congressional run

Last Wednesday, Jan. 31, St. Johns County Commissioner Jimmy Johns announced his candidacy for the Congressional District 6 seat currently held and soon to be vacated by Rep. Ron DeSantis.

"Our country is at a crossroads," Johns said. "Some think we should hold on to the failed policies of yesterday. I disagree and will fight to secure our borders, keep the promises made to our seniors and work to make sure that the promise of America will exist for the next generation. I will work with President Trump to keep taxes low, build the

wall and end the needless and burdensome regulations that stifle growth and hurt our economy."

Johns is the founder and president of Solid Rock Engineering Consultants, Inc., a company he established on his kitchen table that has grown to serve clients throughout the Southeast. The immediate past chairman of the St. Johns County Commission, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor by Gov. Rick Scott, and was subsequently elected to a full term in 2016.

"When Gov. Scott appointed me, I com-

mitted to him and the citizens of St. Johns County that I would hold the line on taxes and spending," Johns said. "I have kept that promise even when some of my closest friends asked me to support a massive sales tax increase. I believe that when you tell someone that you are going to do something, you stick to your word. When Congressman DeSantis announced that he was running for governor, those same people encouraged me to run for Congress because they knew that I would do what I said, not just what was popular."

Wiam "William" Battah is the general manager of Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra Beach.

William Battah

By Jon Blauvelt

Can you please tell us about your background?

I was born in Manhattan in 1971 and raised in Kentucky. I'm a full-blooded Iraqi/American. My parents escaped Iraq in the early 1970s because they didn't like the direction the country was going. I graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1996 with a degree in police administration, and then spent the next five-and-a-half years in the Army as a criminal investigator. I realized that law enforcement wasn't for me, so I changed gears completely and got into the hospitality industry.

I went back to school and then graduated from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco in 2004. I moved to Florida in 2004 and started working for Ruth's Chris Steak House in Ponte Vedra in 2005. I was promoted to the general manager position in 2013, and it's been a whirlwind ever since. I have a beautiful wife, Kim, and two amazing children, William (11 years old) and Vivian (7 years old), who attend Palmer Catholic Academy in Ponte Vedra. We're members of Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish. I'm a HUGE New York Giants fan, and I love the Jags! I'm honored to serve on the board for the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Ponte Vedra Beach Division, as well as the Ponte Vedra Greenway Committee

What are your primary roles and responsibilities as general manager?

I am responsible for overall operations of my restaurant as well as maintaining a positive culture and setting the right example at all times. All financials, facility maintenance, staffing, training and guest issues are also part of my primary responsibilities.

What are some of the biggest challenges you face?

Maintaining and developing my staff is one of the biggest challenges I face on a day-to-day basis. At Ruth's Chris Steak House, we are on the hospitality stage at all times. Our guests expect the highest level of food and service every visit, and it's my job to make sure all my team members are delivering that experience to every guest.

How do you see the restaurant industry changing over time?

The restaurant industry is constantly changing, but that's not as exciting as the changes our Ruth's Chris will go through this year. We're excited about a complete renovation to our restaurant by the end of 2018. It's been 10 years since our last renovation, so we're excited about showing our community the new look of Ruth's Chris-PVB.



Photo by Jon Blauvelt

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

We live in paradise, and it's difficult to nail it down to one thing. The weather is great, the beaches are beautiful, the people are friendly and

the community is warm. There's no shortage of activities, so whatever you're into doing, you can do it on the First Coast. We're known for our golf and beautiful beaches, but there's so much more to the First Coast.

What do you like to do in your free time?

In the restaurant business, I don't get much free time, but when I'm not working, I love spending time with my family, working out, going to rock concerts and visiting with friends.

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

DONNA Marathon Weekend returns to Jacksonville Feb. 9-11

11th annual event encourages runners to 'find their finish'

By Samantha Logue

Droves of pink-clad runners and supporters are expected to flood the streets of Downtown Jacksonville and the Beaches this weekend for The DONNA Foundation's annual DONNA Marathon Weekend, to be held Feb. 9-11. Now in its 11th year, the theme of this year's event will be "#FindYourFinish."

Beginning Friday, Feb. 9 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center at 1000 Water St. in Jacksonville, this weekend's events will kick off with the DONNA Expo, from noon to 7 p.m. The races will then begin at the same location Saturday morning, including the DONNA 10K, 5K and Family Fun Run. Finally, the Marathon Weekend will be capped off on Sunday with the "26.2 with DONNA Marathon," the DONNA Half Marathon, the DONNA Relay and – a new addition to the list – the Corporate Challenge, all starting off of ATP Tour Boulevard in Ponte Vedra Beach.

"We've asked corporations around Jacksonville to build relay teams of five people, and they'll compete against each other not only in running, but in fundraising," said Donna Deegan, founder of The DONNA Foundation, about the new corporate relay. "Not everyone wants to run marathon-distance, but we have a lot of people that want to help us with breast cancer, so to be able to add more options for people is



Photo provided by DONNA Foundation/St. John & Partners

always a good thing."

A former First Coast News anchor, Deegan is a three-time breast cancer survivor who, in the midst of her battle with the disease, started a personal blog to share her experiences with others. Not long afterward, she said, she began to receive feedback from others who were struggling under the burdens of breast cancer.

"I started to hear from a lot of underserved people who were having a really tough time and trying to decide whether to buy their medicines, or put food on the table for their kids," she said.

According to Deegan, that feedback fanned the flames of her determination to

"finish breast cancer," eventually sparking the idea for The DONNA Foundation.

"With a lot of help, we started this foundation for underserved women on the First Coast who were going through breast cancer treatment, but were having a difficult time making ends meet," she said. "We decided we would pay for their critical needs while they were going through treatment, so they could focus on trying to get better."

Since its founding in 2003, The DONNA Foundation has remained committed to that goal, assisting breast cancer patients and researchers in their respective battles against the disease.

"We've raised millions of dollars, \$3 million of which has gone to a very specific research project called Translational Genomics at Mayo Clinic, which has really reaped incredible benefits in the research world," Deegan said. "And on the other side, we've been able to help more than 11,000 families with their critical needs. It's been a huge blessing to be able to get people from all over the country and the world to come here and run and raise money, and that's really our goal. We just hope we can encourage more and more people not only to run, but to fundraise as well."

Registration for the upcoming Marathon Weekend has been extended through this Saturday, and those interested in participating can learn more and sign up at www.breastcancermarathon.com. For those who are physically unable to run, but still wish to show their support, volunteering is also an option.

"We need 2,000 volunteers for this event every year, and we take great care of our volunteers," Deegan said. "They have a lot of fun, and it's a great, uplifting day, so we would encourage people who don't want to run or walk to get out there and volunteer, or cheer. Just come out along the race course and help us cheer on these wonderful folks who are helping us do a good thing."

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PV3-LV45888

Thursday, Feb. 8	Friday, Feb. 9	Saturday, Feb. 10	Sunday, Feb. 11
<p>Black History Month at World Golf Hall of Fame The World Golf Hall of Fame & Museum will celebrate Black History Month by offering 50 percent off admission for any guest who mentions the Black History Month promotion throughout the month of February. The museum, located at 1 World Golf Place, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. For more information, visit www.worldgolfhalloffame.org.</p> <p>Celebrate Mardi Gras w/ Jed Katzman Celebrate Mardi Gras with a costume contest featuring Jed Katzman Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center, located at 175 Landrum Lane. For more information, contact Danielle Johnson at (904) 280-3233 or djohnson@stjohnscoa.com.</p> <p>Beach Cruisers Young Professionals History Happy Hour The Beaches Museum & Historical Park Beach Cruisers Young Professionals will host a History Happy Hour Feb. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach. Visitors will get a sneak peek at the upcoming Lana Shuttleworth exhibit. The event is free to Beach Cruisers members with a suggested \$5 donation from non-members. For more information, visit www.beachmuseum.org or call (904) 241-5657.</p> <p>Pre-K storytime and fun class Children Pre-K ready and older and their caregivers are invited Feb. 8 to join Youth Services Staff Ms. Anne and Ms. Kimblerley for lengthier-themed stories, singing, shaky egg dancing, finger plays and circle time interaction, including yoga for children and caregivers. Visitors should bring a mat or towel. This event will take place at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Early history of European settlements Michael Francis from the University of South Florida will deliver a presentation Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. on the early history of European settlement efforts in Florida. This event will take place at the Lightner Museum's Historic Pool area, located at 75 King St. in St. Augustine.</p>	<p>Coastal Wine Market wine tasting Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room hosts Friday wine tastings from 6 to 8 p.m. at 641 Crosswater Parkway, Suite B in Ponte Vedra Beach. Taste six wines for \$10. For more information, call (904) 395-3520.</p> <p>Cannon firing demonstration at Castillo de San Marcos National Park Service volunteers and personnel demonstrate a cannon firing at the Castillo de San Marcos museum / monument every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rangers and volunteers demonstrate the weapons and relate the experiences of the colonial Spanish soldier of 1740s St. Augustine. Firing times are subject to change depending on weather conditions and staff availability. Castillo de San Marcos is located at 1 S. Castillo Drive in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Paddle, stretch and drift workout Join Emily with Ocean Extreme Sports for a paddle, stretch and drift workout on paddle boards every Friday morning from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Participation is free for those with equipment. Rentals cost \$35, which includes a board, paddle and leash. This event will take place at 8655 A1A S. in St. Augustine. Visit oceanextremesports.com/ for more information.</p> <p>'Nature Reconstructed' exhibition opening The Beaches Museum & History Park will host an exhibit opening reception for "Nature Reconstructed" by Lana Shuttleworth Feb. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. Shuttleworth uses common plastic castoff materials, particularly traffic safety cones, to create landscapes and sculptural figures that challenge the viewer's comprehension. This event is free to museum members with a suggested \$5 donation for non-members. Shuttleworth's exhibit will be on display until June 3. For more information, call (904) 241-5657 or visit www.beachmuseum.org. The Beaches Museum & History Park is located at 381 Beach Blvd. in Jacksonville Beach.</p>	<p>DONNA Marathon The DONNA Marathon weekend to Fight Breast Cancer will take place Feb. 9-11 and will feature a 5k, 10k, relay, half marathon, marathon, ultramarathon and event challenges. Held annually the second weekend of February, DONNA Marathon Weekend fills the City of Jacksonville and its Beaches in Northeast Florida with over 10,000 runners from all 50 states and 20 countries. For more information on race locations and times, visit www.breastcancermarathon.com.</p> <p>G. Love & Special Sauce with guest Kristy Lee G. Love & Special Sauce, along with special guest Kristy Lee, will perform Feb. 10 at the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall at 7 p.m. (gates open at 6). G. Love & Special Sauce has performed around the world since its self-titled debut album went gold. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call the box office at (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p> <p>Flight to Freedom Volunteers from Florida Living History, in partnership with Fort Mose Historic State Park and the Fort Mose Historical Society, will offer visitors an opportunity to look back and glimpse at the journey of the people fleeing slavery Feb. 8-10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 15 Fort Mose Trail in St. Augustine.</p> <p>Mardis Gras ball Come celebrate Mardis Gras Feb. 10 from 6 to 10 p.m. at "The Pioneer Barn" on North San Marco Avenue in St. Augustine. Tickets cost \$40; all proceeds go directly to fund St. Augustine's annual Easter parade. The festival will include live music from local band Smokestack, Cajun and Creole food prepared by Datil Rooster, beer, wine and king cake. For more information, call (904) 669-8713.</p>	<p>Sandals, Shorts and Steel Drum Service Every Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to noon, St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church invites guests to put on sandals and shorts for a more casual worship service featuring the tropical sound of steel drum music. The church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>'Not-So-Still' exhibition The St. Augustine Art Association is hosting the "Not-So-Still" exhibition featuring works in the "still life" genre. The exhibition is free and open to the public Tuesday to Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at 22 Marine St. in St. Augustine. Visit www.staaa.org for more information.</p> <p>Second Sunday at Stetson's The Stetson Kennedy Foundation will host Second Sunday at Stetson's, a musical series and artistic event at Beluthahatchee Park Feb. 11 at 2 p.m. This month's event will feature guitarist Sam Pacetti, a North Florida native. Reservations are required to attend. For more information, visit www.stetsonkenedy.com. Beluthahatchee Park is located at 1523 State Road 13 in St. Johns County.</p> <p>Under the Streetlamp at Ponte Vedra Concert Hall The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall will host Under the Streetlamp's 'Rockin' Round the Clock,' featuring former cast members of Jersey Boys and other Broadway musicals, who will perform two sets of classic hits from the American radio songbook from the 1950s through the 1970s. Under the Streetlamp is a flashback to a time when people would gather under a streetlamp to sing their favorite rock and roll songs. The performance will take place Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pvconcerthall.com or call the box office at (904) 209-0399. The Ponte Vedra Concert Hall is located at 1050 A1A N.</p>

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Monday, Feb. 12	Tuesday, Feb. 13	Wednesday, Feb. 14	Thursday, Feb. 15
<p>Jihade-Khalil Huffman exhibition This exhibition, entitled "A Tondo for Rajon Rondo," will showcase recent works of art by Jihade-Khalil Huffman through Feb. 23. Huffman's work will be on display at The Crisp-Ellert Art Museum, located at 48 Sevilla St. in St. Augustine. The museum's hours are Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Huffman's exhibition includes video, photography and sculptures.</p> <p>Caregiver support meetings The St. Johns County Council on Aging will host caregiver support meetings Mondays (except holidays) from noon to 1 p.m. at the Ponte Vedra Memory Care Center at 1048 A1A N. For more information, call Paulette Kozlowski at (904) 209-3674 or email pkozlowski@stjohnscoa.com. The meetings will provide a supportive environment for people who are experiencing similar challenges in which they can share problems, ideas and solutions.</p> <p>First Coast Plein Air Painters exhibition This exhibition, presented by the First Coast Plein Air Painters, is on display at The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach is located at 50 Executive Way; visit www.ccpvb.org for more information.</p> <p>'Shall We Dance?' wartime waltzing Join the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library to celebrate its 2018 St. Johns Reads' WWI selection, "Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania" by Erik Larson, by stepping back through time with the most popular dances of the 1910s. Everyone is invited to learn the Waltz and the Tango from "Dance Alday" Feb. 12 from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Guests can bring a friend or a partner and dress up. The Ponte Vedra Beach Library is located at 101 Library Blvd.</p>	<p>Tapas Tuesday The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens presents Tapas Tuesday at the Cummer Cafe every Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. View the sunset on the Cummer Cafe patio while listening to local musicians and enjoying beer, wine or artfully-inspired tapas for sale at the Cafe. Reserve your table by calling (904) 899-6022. For more information, visit www.cummermuseum.org. The museum is located at 829 Riverside Ave.</p> <p>Tuesday pancake supper St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church's annual Shrove Tuesday Dinner will take place Feb. 13 in Stormes Hall. Guests can enjoy pancakes or red beans and rice at 6 p.m. and 6:30. Tickets will be available after the 10 a.m. service in the Christopher Lobby. All reservations must be made by Feb. 11. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11 Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>'Sing Your Heart Out' w/ Steve Chapman Join the Council on Aging for a Valentine's special event, "Sing Your Heart Out," featuring Steve Chapman. This celebration will take place Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. at The PLAYERS Community Senior Center. Reservations are required; book a spot by calling (904) 280-3233. The PLAYERS Community Senior Center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra.</p> <p>Ill Forks Valentine's special Ill Forks is participating in Valentine's Day festivities Feb. 9-14 with a three-course "Sweetheart" menu featuring two filet mignon steaks and two lobster tails, wine and champagne specials and more. The dinner is \$160 per couple. The restaurant is open Monday through Thursday from 5 to 10 p.m. and Friday to Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m. Call (904) 928-9277 to make a reservation. Ill Forks is located at 9822 Tapestry Park Circle, Suite #111 in Jacksonville.</p> <p>Haunted romance tour Enjoy a stroll down lover's lane during a 90-minute tour of St. Augustine's streets featuring historic tales of love and romance which often end tragically, and with ghostly consequences. Visit www.ghostaugustine.com for more information.</p>	<p>Toastmasters Club Toastmasters Club #5199 of Ponte Vedra Beach meets every Wednesday at 7:30 a.m. at THE PLAYERS Community Senior Center. These meetings help attendees improve public speaking and gain leadership skills. The senior center is located at 175 Landrum Lane in Ponte Vedra Beach. Email Lucy Reep at lucyreep@gmail.com for additional information.</p> <p>Yoga at church Join St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal for Yoga every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a mat to this yoga class, which is suitable for all skill levels and ages. St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church is located at 465 11th Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach.</p> <p>Pollinators workshop Learn why butterfly gardens should really be called pollinator gardens in this Feb. 14 workshop about pollinators from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the St. Johns County Extension Auditorium, located at 3125 Agricultural Center Drive. This event is free and open to the public. Register at www.gardenpollinators.eventbrite.ca.</p> <p>Volunteers needed at St. Johns County Council on Aging A volunteer pianist is needed Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon to play for the choir at the River House in St. Augustine. Additionally, a volunteer is needed to lead "easy-does-it" exercise class for seniors once a week for an hour on Wednesday. Call (904) 209-3686 or email aleach@stjohnscoa.com for more information.</p> <p>Chabad @ the Beaches to sell Reisman's Hamantashen Chabad @ the Beaches will sell Reisman's Hamantashen, a triangular pastry traditionally served on Purim, for \$5.50 a pound. Orders must be submitted before Feb. 14. Chabad @ the Beaches is located at 521 A1A N. in Ponte Vedra Beach.</p>	<p>Grief support group A grief support group meets on the third Thursday of every month at St. Paul's Catholic Church in room 102 of the Family Live Center, located at 578 1st Ave. N. in Jacksonville Beach. The group is for men and women who are grieving the death of a family member or friend. The next meeting will take place Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. For more information, call Kathy at (904) 553-8933 or Catherine at (904) 247-0665.</p> <p>Throwback Thursday: 'Blind Date' A workaholic needs a date for a dinner with new important clientele, but who his brother sets him up with could lead to disaster. "Blind Date" is showing at the Corazon Cinema and Cafe at noon. Admission costs \$10, which includes a meal, popcorn, small drink and showing of the movie. The Corazon Cinema and Cafe is located at 36 Granada St. in St. Augustine. Call (904) 679-5736 for more information.</p> <p>Yoga for Survivors The Y Healthy Living Center at the Ponte Vedra YMCA will host a Yoga for Survivors class Feb. 15 at 11:30 a.m. Cancer patients, survivors, caregivers and others with range of motion and pain limitations are invited to join in this gentle and safe yoga practice, which is free and open to the public. Call (904) 202-5376 or visit www.baptistjax.com/ymca to reserve a spot. The Ponte Vedra YMCA is located at 170 Landrum Lane.</p> <p>Early Literacy for Happy Babies class Babies and their caregivers are invited to join youth services staff members Ms. Anne and Ms. Kimberley for stories, singing, and movement to help build early literacy skills and develop a love of reading. This event will take place Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to noon at the Ponte Vedra Beach Library, located at 101 Library Blvd.</p> <p>Free calendar listings for community groups and nonprofit organizations are published at our discretion on a space-available basis. Send your event at least 10 days before publication. Submit events to ben@opcfla.com, post online at www.pontevedrarecorder.com using the automated form or call (904) 686-3939.</p>

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First Coast Valentine's Day events

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. The Recorder has gathered a list of area events/specials taking place for the occasion that you can enjoy with that special someone.



Valentine's Day special at Coastal Wine

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room is offering the chef's choice cheeseboard for two for \$20. The business is located at 641 Crosswater Parkway b in Ponte Vedra. Visit coastalwinemarket.com for more information.



by calling (386) 447-4610.

Couple's massage at Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is offering the "serenity rose couples package," which includes a customized touch de-stress massage, an ELEMIS Garden of England Rose restore hand manicure for two, an ELEMIS best foot forward pedicure for two and lunch for two from Soothies Café, for \$280. Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa is located at 1000 PGA Tour Blvd. in Ponte Vedra.

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Valentine's chocolate and wine tasting at the Gifted Cork

Head to the Gifted Cork in St. Augustine on Friday, Feb. 16 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for a Valentine's chocolate and wine tasting. Treats from Claude's Chocolate will be provided. This prepay event of six wines and chocolates is \$14 per person. Call the store at (904) 810-1083 or stop by to prepay for your spot. Tickets must be purchased by Thursday, Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. The Gifted Cork is located at 64-A Hypolita St. in St. Augustine.

A night of romance at the Atlantic Grille

Romance is on the menu at the Hammock Beach Resort's Atlantic Grille this Valentine's Day. Bring your special someone to Palm Coast's luxury oceanfront restaurant and enjoy breathtaking views, a special four-course meal and optional wine pairings. For \$60 per person, or \$90



per person with wine pairings, you will dine on oysters rockefeller, espresso rub petite filet, chocolate tartufo and more. Reservations are available from 5 to 10 p.m., and strongly recommended,



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MM1481

Valentine's Eve at the Capital Grille

The Capital Grille at St. Johns Town Center is inviting guests to dine at its restaurant on Valentine's Eve. Patrons will enjoy a special pairing, with the restaurant's compliments: veuve clicquot rosé champagne and dark chocolate-covered strawberries. The Capital Grille is located at 5197 Big Island Drive. Visit www.thecapitalgrille.com/reservations to make a reservation.



Valentine's Day

The Fresh Market to offer Valentine's Meal

For a romantic dinner without the hassle of restaurant reservations, The Fresh Market is offering its signature Valentine's Meal for \$49.99, which is now available for order, with in-store pick up and purchase Feb. 12-14 at all 176 store locations.

Choose two Chateaubriand-cut filet mignons or North Atlantic lobster tails -- or one of each -- and serve with Yukon gold whipped potatoes alongside asparagus tips, ready to be seared. Complete the event with a dozen chocolate dipped strawberries and set the mood with a dozen roses.

Also at Fresh Market, "Little Big Meals" available throughout the month of February for \$25 or less will include: chili (now through Feb. 6), pasta (Feb. 7-14), Shepherd's Pie (Feb. 15-20) and noodle/ rice bowls (Feb. 21-27). Available at all 176 stores nationwide, these grab-and-go meals offer satisfying solutions to the perennial "What's for dinner?" question. Guests may stop by the "Little Big Meal" display any day of the week to choose from a variety of fresh ingredient options. Each "Little Big Meal" recipe is curated with the season's hand-picked ingredients, and offers a quick and easy, wholesome meal for four.

For more information, visit www.thefreshmarket.com.



Chocolate-covered strawberries can also be purchased to complete your Valentine's Day meal.



Photos courtesy of The Fresh Market

The Fresh Market's signature Valentine's Day meal.

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SOUPer Bowl III raises over \$29,000 for First Coast Blessings in a Backpack

By Jon Blauvelt

The SOUPer Bowl returned to Nease High School on Thursday, Feb. 1, for the third consecutive year, and the event did not disappoint, hosting 23 local restaurants and nearly 500 people and raising over \$29,000 for First Coast Blessings in a Backpack.

Chef David Cressler from Sawgrass Country Club won the People's Choice Award for best soup of the night, with his Posole Verde. Several other First Coast restaurants, many of which came from Ponte Vedra, provided samples of their most popular chowders, stews and bisques to event attendees, and proceeds ultimately helped address childhood hunger in St. Johns County.

The recipient of the funds, First Coast Blessings in a Backpack is a nonprofit organization that provides consistent weekend nutrition for children on the federal free and reduced meal program. Children relying on the federal free and reduced meal program don't always have meals waiting for them when they go home after school, event organizers said. As a result, Blessings in a Backpack packs food items for these kids and sends it home with them on the weekends.

The SOUPer Bowl's proceeds will

specifically benefit St. Johns County, which First Coast Blessings in a Backpack Managing Director Kimberly Ward said is home to 800 kids and 14 schools who/that the nonprofit serves.

SOUPer Bowl co-chair Becky Dykstra explained that several organizations and groups at Nease are involved in organizing the fundraiser, ranging from the school's hospitality and communications academies to International Baccalaureate (IB) students fulfilling service hours. Dykstra noted that 10 local schools were involved in this year's "Be the Change" campaign, which was a coin/change drive to raise additional funds. Bartram Trail High School ultimately raised the most money via that campaign with \$3,100. Dykstra also said that nine area schools were also involved in creating handcrafted bowls that event attendees took home as mementos from the event.

The SOUPer Bowl was founded two years ago after a group of parents decided to establish a fundraising event to help Blessings in a Backpack raise awareness and funds for its cause.

"What makes this so unique is we involve so many different kids," said Dykstra. "It's a really nice evening for the community to come together and to enjoy great food and fellowship for a great cause."



Parents who volunteered to organize the third annual SOUPer Bowl gather at the conclusion of the event.



Volunteers Nell Crlenjak and Jake Blumberg



ABOVE: Kaylee Geiger, Dae'Shaud Woodard and Austin Heritage from St. Johns Technical High School Academy of Culinary Arts



LEFT: Florjan Pellumbi, Chef Thomas Allen and Chef Jordan Kiernan from Sawgrass Marriot Golf Resort & Spa

Photos by Jon Blauvelt

Donation

Continued from 4

obtained by the Recorder from Oberkehr to the parents that was sent later in the week, those concerns were confirmed to be true.

"I was just mad that the school was so quick to jump away from the issue and not support Matt for what he believed in, whether it would have been Planned Parenthood or a pro-life organization or whatever," said Burnett. "We would have supported him with whatever decision he made."

With those emotions in mind, Burnett subsequently decided to post a Facebook response to Leapley's letter on Thursday, Jan. 25.

"I am writing today to those who have swept this issue under the rug, to those who have belittled the opinions and hard work of an outstanding group of seniors at Ponte Vedra High School, and to those who have had an opinion on a controversial issue" she wrote. "We are not misinformed teens, we are not uneducated on politics and controversial topics, and we did not make 'mistakes' while planning this event.

"Instead of scolding Matt for choosing Planned Parenthood as his charity, we

must celebrate him," Burnett continued. "It is very rare, especially in this community, that we get the chance to find a voice for what we believe in. Matt understands, the Senior Women officers understand and now the community must understand that it's time to respect the choices of others, no matter age, no matter viewpoint and no matter controversy ... I am a young woman at Ponte Vedra High that will see this donation goes through to Planned Parenthood. Not because I am pro-choice, but because I am pro-respect."

The following morning on Friday, Jan. 26, a group of Ponte Vedra students showed up to school wearing black in peaceful protest of the recent events. By the end of the day, Burnett said Oberkehr called the involved students down to his office and informed them that the proceeds would indeed support Planned Parenthood, as long as Gibson was ok with it. The talent show winner confirmed his choice, and the \$6,000 donation was made final. Students raised an additional \$1,000, Gibson said, that will support the organization.

The Ponte Vedra senior noted that the donation will not go toward Planned Parenthood's abortion services and will instead support the organization's health care services and sexuality education. Christina Noce, a media spokesperson for

the organization, said the donation is being sent to the Planned Parenthood national organization and confirmed that donations support the aforementioned services outside of abortion. St. Johns County School District spokeswoman Christina Langston also confirmed that the donation will support these services, not the organization's abortion services.

Moving forward

In the letter from the school to parents, Oberkehr said the winner's choice was identified as a legitimate, legal 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization after further investigation.

In the future, the Ponte Vedra principal said administration will "ensure that designated charities are well communicated to the entire school community several weeks prior to the event."

Speaking on behalf of some other parents, Leapley believes this is exactly the transparency that needs to be implemented to the charity event moving forward. In retrospect, she feels badly that her letter offended or hurt any of the students involved, and she wishes that she had acknowledged their hard work. She said she sent apology letters to both Gibson and Burnett.

Yet at the same time, Leapley believes

her letter raised productive discussion and awareness of the donation. Several parents, she said, sent her messages of appreciation for her words, and a handful of others withdrew their donations from the school.

Burnett said the end result provided students with comfort knowing that their opinions matter to the school's administration and that their decisions are respected.

"It's about supporting the students of Ponte Vedra, not about creating a pro-life/pro-choice discussion," she noted. "It just showed that we as students are informed and are intelligent enough to make our own decisions."

Gibson echoed those sentiments, stating that he's learned not to stand down when times get tough.

"I think when all this happened with the school, we were never trying to fight for our political views," he said. "We were fighting for the right to respect the choice that was made. That was made very clearly when we had so many students of many different backgrounds who were willing to put their differences aside to all come together for this fight to respect the choice.

"There's no way this would have been possible without the help of all the students coming together, especially the Senior Women officers," he added "It was that teamwork that made this all happen."

OBITUARIES



James Newton
James Edward "Ed" Newton, 88, died peacefully at McGraw Community Hospice of Jacksonville Jan. 24, 2018, following a battle with congestive heart failure.

James Newton

Ed was born in Columbus, Georgia, Oct. 13, 1929. He is the youngest son of the late Helen Mullino Newton and Russell Brown Newton. He graduated from The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia. Ed served in the United States Navy as a naval intelligence officer during the Korean War, and attended The Wharton School of Business. He was an avid golfer, an accomplished pilot and loved politics, finance and, most of all, family.

Ed is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Joan Crumley Newton; son, James Edward Newton Jr.; daughter, Caroline Newton Smith; three grandchildren, Hunter Locke Newton, Reese Matthew Newton and Margaret Olivia Smith; and his eldest brother, Russell Brown Newton Jr. He was preceded in death by his brother, Fred Mullino Newton.

A family service was held at Christ Church in Ponte Vedra Beach. Please

visit the online tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home.



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Franklin Blanc

Franklin Blanc, 90, died Jan. 27, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

William Ennis

William Robert Ennis, 97, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 22, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Betty Ann Frankland

Betty Ann Frankland, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 24, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Marilyn Freeman

Marilyn E. Freeman, 91, of Atlantic Beach, died Jan. 31, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

John Gibson

John W. Gibson, 93, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Feb. 5, 2018. Arrangements

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

Marian Kruger

Marian L. Kruger, 99, of Ponte Vedra Beach, died Jan. 28, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Jennifer Madrideojos

Jennifer Madrideojos, 46, died Jan. 30, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

James McGrath

James Michael McGrath, 81, of Neptune Beach, died Jan. 24, 2018. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz, A Family Funeral Home & Cremation Centre.

Betty Lou Menaged

Betty Lou Menaged, 86, died Jan. 27, 2018. Ponte Vedra Valley Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery – (904) 285-1130 – www.pontevedravalle.com.

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Gary and Nancy Chartrand to receive 'Rock of the Community Award' from PVB Rotary Club

Award to be presented at annual 'Mineral City' celebration April 7

Local philanthropists Gary and Nancy Chartrand will receive the 2018 "Rock of the Community Award" at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's annual "Mineral City" celebration, to be held Saturday, April 7 at the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse.

The Ponte Vedra Beach residents will be honored for their contributions to the Greater Jacksonville community.

"Gary and Nancy Chartrand have been tireless champions for so many local causes that improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable citizens," said Ponte Vedra Beach Rotary Club President-Elect Mark Farrell, the chairman of this year's "Mineral City" celebration. "Through their long history of servant leadership, they have truly shown themselves to be 'Rocks of the Community' and are therefore amply deserving of this honor."

In 2007, Acosta President Gary Chartrand led a community effort to bring Teach for America to Jacksonville, and later made a personal pledge gift that helped bring the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), which will be one of the beneficiaries of the Rotary Club's Mineral City celebration. In 2011, Gov. Rick Scott appointed Chartrand to the state Board of Education. He also serves on the board of the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund Foundation, and is an active supporter of the Wounded Warrior Project, Catholic Charities,



Photo courtesy of Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach

Nancy and Gary Chartrand will receive the 2018 "Rock of the Community Award" at the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach's annual "Mineral City" celebration on April 7.

Guardian of Dreams Catholic schools and the Diocese of St. Augustine.

Nancy Chartrand has been driven by her devotion to her Catholic faith, her love of her family, her strong commitment to social justice and her passion for the betterment of the community. She considers her greatest overall career accomplishment to be the formation of her family's foundation alongside her husband and their two children, Jeffrey and Meredith. The Chartrand Foundation focuses on education, reflecting the Chartrands' belief that a high-quality education is the most important step individuals can take toward

achieving self-expression, personal freedom and financial independence. Over the past five years, The Chartrand Foundation has awarded \$15 million in grants for the advancement of the community.

The Mineral City celebration is the signature annual fundraising event for the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Beach. Proceeds from the event benefit more than two dozen local nonprofit organizations and charities, including the Beaches Dial-a-Ride program, Mission House, BEAM, HEAL, the Council on Aging and more. For tickets or more information, visit www.mineralcitycelebration.com.



Logo courtesy of JoAnne Blakely

Annual Vilano Bridge Run to be held March 17

The 2018 Vilano Bridge Run will take place Saturday, March 17 at 8 a.m.

Now in its 22nd year, the event includes a 5K, 10K and Fun Run, providing a family experience with views of the Intracoastal Waterway, beaches and Downtown St. Augustine. Participants in the new 10K race will wind through Camachee Island and Porpoise Point. The 1-mile family Fun Run immediately follows the start of the longer runs.

Hosted by the North Shores Improvement Association, the annual event supports important community center improvements, and this year, a portion of race proceeds will be shared with the local American Red Cross.

Runners and walkers will receive colorful race T-shirts, goodie bags, finisher medals and age group awards for top finishers. Participants and their families are encouraged to "Stay & Play" at the great after-party with music, awards, family games, prize drawings and valuable silent auction items. While participants will each receive a complimentary post-race beer, additional food and drink will be available for purchase. In addition to Title Sponsor Vinny's Pizza, top event sponsors include Flagler Hospital, Serenata Beach Club, Dunkin' Donuts, Wren Beach Rentals and local realtor Trudy Padilla.

Early discounted registration is now available at www.1stPlaceSports.com. Prices go up March 1 with registration available online and at 1st Place Sports stores until Mar. 16. Limited registration is available at the start of the race on Mar. 17.

For more information, contact vilanobridgerun@gmail.com.

Annual Lighthouse 5K and Fun Run to be held March 3

The Junior Service League (JSL) of St. Augustine will host its annual Lighthouse 5K & Fun Run on Saturday, March 3 at the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum.

The 5K racers take their marks at 4:30 p.m. and will enjoy a flat, 3.1-mile USA Track and Field (USATF)-certified course that will take them through historic Lighthouse Park and the Davis Shores subdivision. Online registration for the race will close at noon on March 2, but walk-up registration will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. on race day. Fees will vary depending on date registered. The top overall male and female runners will each be awarded \$100.

JSL will also be hosting the run's annual Night Fest, which opens to the public at 4 p.m. and will feature live music, activities for kids, concessions, the chance to climb the tower and tour the Lighthouse grounds. There is no cost for admission.

All proceeds benefit the Junior Service League of St. Augustine and its charities. To register for the race, or for more information, visit www.lighthouse5krun.com.



Why I serve

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

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

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

Business Weekly

3 Palms Grille making big moves with small changes

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

www.PonteVedraRecorder.com



Photo by Susan Griffin

Hilton Garden Inn employees Anna Washington, Carol Mauer, Ted Hayes and Anette Saalman share the news about the formation of Sawgrass Events at a recent tasting event.

New Sawgrass Events catering business now offering its services

By Benjamin Naim

A new caterer in Ponte Vedra has opened for business.

Operating under the umbrella of Hilton Garden Inn Jacksonville/Ponte Vedra, Sawgrass Events is now offering its services for a variety of events.

Ted Hayes, the food and beverage director at Hilton Garden Inn, said the caterer offers "anything anybody can think of" for special events that are both offsite and onsite, such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, corporate ceremo-

nies, bar mitzvahs and more.

"We just started roughly six months ago," he said. "We do a lot of things inside the hotel, we've done a lot of rehearsal dinners for weddings, and we do corporate functions almost every other day as far as work luncheons, seminars, cocktail events and things of that nature."

Hayes said the catering arm of Hilton Garden Inn has also serviced a handful of office deliveries in the community and dropped off pre-ordered sandwich and salad platters for small luncheons.

The caterer offers seasonal fruits and berries, fresh yogurt with a variety of mixings, bagels, croissants, muffins, coffee cakes and more for breakfast. For lunch, the caterer offers a build-your-own sandwich display with roasted turkey, honey ham and other meats along with fresh lettuce, tomatoes, onions, banana peppers and pickle spears. Barbecue pulled pork sliders, grilled chicken teriyaki skewers and cheese tortellini are also available on the lunch menu.

SAWGRASS continues on Page 18

What happened to innocent until proven guilty?



Janet Johnson
Guest Columnist

By Janet Johnson
Special to the Recorder

The state attorney is starting a conviction integrity unit. That's a good start.

Melissa Nelson, the state attorney for the Fourth Judicial Circuit (Duval, Clay and Nassau counties), just announced that she hired a former criminal defense attorney, not to prosecute people but to exonerate them. I know this sounds like the opposite of her job, but it is actually the most important hire she has ever made. And it is just the beginning of a reform to our criminal justice system that is long overdue.

A study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences estimated that 4.1 percent of defendants who are sentenced to death in this country are later shown to be innocent. That is one in 25. And death sentences are far better documented than any other criminal case, making it difficult to estimate the rate of wrongful convictions for those. The entire integrity of our criminal justice system depends on ensuring that innocent people

are not wrongfully convicted. In fact, for integrity in the criminal justice system to truly be maintained, the police need to also examine how many people who are ultimately exonerated get arrested. Because once someone is arrested, even if they are innocent, the odds that they escape the system unscathed, are almost none.

First, there is the matter of a bond. While there are notices to appear for some misdemeanors and in some circumstances, people who do not qualify are taken to jail and given a bond. Again, some people may be released on their own recognizance, but many will be given a monetary bond, which means they will have to secure a bondsman and generally pay him or her 10 percent of the bond as a non-refundable fee. This, in and of itself, can run into the thousands.

Additionally, many judges require other forms of security, like alcohol sensors in DUIs, or GPS monitors. These can cost in excess of an extra \$300 per month, each month, while the case is pending. And all of this is while the defendant is presumed innocent. If they are acquitted, the arrest itself may have already cost them thou-

JOHNSON continues on Page 17

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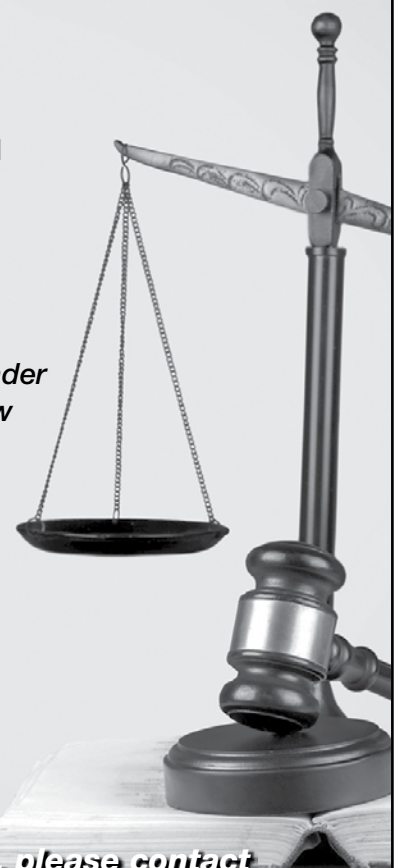
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Johnson

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sands of dollars, their liberty for at least a day and possibly their employment. Many professions require immediate reporting of arrests for some charges. And spending a night in jail may cause a defendant to miss work without an excuse, which can result in firing.

All of this is before a defendant even sets foot in court. Having been arrested, people charged with misdemeanors are actually given a chance to enter pleas to charges at their first appearance. If they plead no contest or guilty, a defendant is saying he or she wants to end the case at first appearance and the judge can sentence him or her. Many defendants do not know that either no contest or guilty may result in a conviction. If a person has never been in jail or charged with a crime, and he or she is not familiar with the bond system, he or she may choose to plead at first appearance despite being innocent of the charge. If a lawyer has not been hired — an additional expense — no one will have had a chance to look at any of the evidence, to ensure the state can prove the case. Even the public defender in the courtroom will not have had a chance to see all of the evidence in the case.

While it is almost impossible to know how many innocent people plead at their first court appearance, there certainly are a percentage of people who do so in order to

get released from jail. While an arrest only requires that the police determine there is probable cause that a crime was committed, and the defendant is the person who committed it — not the reasonable doubt standard that is required for a conviction in court — the stakes of going to jail are tremendous. Our bond system can make it so costly that even innocent people do not escape unscathed.

In a recent Florida Times-Union article, Nelson was cited in a staff email announcing her conviction integrity unit, saying, “We can all agree that no benefit is served by an innocent person being convicted, especially since the alternative is that the guilty person has not been held accountable.” She went on to say that she “cannot think of a greater service [she] could provide another human being than to give a wrongly convicted individual back their liberty.”

Now let us work on not depriving innocent people of their liberty whenever possible. For the first time in Florida, a state attorney may lead the charge to do just that.

Janet Johnson is a criminal defense attorney in Jacksonville who practices in state and federal courts. White collar crimes, including fraud, embezzlement and tax evasion, are among her areas of expertise. She is rated AV Preeminent on attorney rating website Martindale-Hubbell and has been named to the American Institute of Criminal Law Attorneys’ Top 10 Best Attorneys list. Johnson is also a legal analyst for CNN and HLN.

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Bistro Aix in San Marco reopening Feb. 8

Bistro Aix owners Jacques Klempf and Fraser Burns announced last week that the restaurant will reopen Thursday, Feb. 8, after sustaining damage from Hurricane Irma.

The award-winning restaurant, located at 1440 San Marco Blvd. in Jacksonville, closed in September 2017 to repair the damage.

“Ever since Hurricane Irma passed, we have been working hard to get Bistro Aix ready for service again,” said Klempf, a Ponte Vedra resident. “We are eager to welcome back our valued guests, neighbors and friends.”

The updated interior design features a lighter color palette, as seen in the floors, curtains and subway tile in the open kitchen. Recovered chairs and tables were sanded to reveal a lighter finish. The private dining room, which previously featured a dark color palette of red and black, is now a modern and sleek white room with dark oak furniture that can accommodate up to 45 guests. Additionally, the marketplace counter has been replaced with a 10-seat farm table. Outdoor patio tables and couches are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Danis led the four-month restoration. Design Cooperative was the designer.

“The support we have received from the Jacksonville community over the past several months has been nothing short



Photo courtesy of Wingard Creative

of incredible,” said Burns. “We extend our deepest gratitude to our design team, construction partners and Bistro Aix team members for their dedication.”

Returning guests will see many familiar dishes on Executive Chef Shaun Trachtenburg’s menu, including French onion soup, brie en croute, blue cheese chips, steak frites and wood-fired pizzas. New entrée options include seared duck breast, whole trout and pan-seared U-10 diver scallops served with Anson Mills grits.

The bar menu, under the direction of

Beverage Director Cory Berlin, will offer a rotating selection of locally sourced draft beer, French wine and craft cocktails. A happy hour menu with discounted beverages and bar snacks will be served Monday through Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Executive Pastry Chef Michael Bump’s dessert menu includes classic French desserts with a creative twist, including chai crème brûlée, banana crepes and house-made ice cream.

Reservations can be made at BistroX.com and through [OpenTable](http://OpenTable.com).



Photo courtesy of Ponte Vedra Inn & Club

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club earns AAA Five Diamond rating for 16th consecutive year

Last week, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club received a AAA Five Diamond Award rating for the 16th year in a row.

A prestigious honor reserved for hotels throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, a AAA Five Diamond rating signifies that a hotel offers the highest degree of excellence in luxury, comfort, style, amenities and service. It is determined by a hotel’s overall quality, range of facilities and the level of services offered. AAA reviews more than 27,000 hotels each year for this honor, yet just 0.4 percent make the cut. Additionally, a mere 5.9 percent receive a Four Diamond rating, a designation which the next-door Lodge & Club has retained since 1999.

“We are honored to receive the coveted AAA Five-Diamond Award designation,” said Michael Gordon, vice president and general manager of the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. “This rating reflects the commitment of our staff and management to provide every guest with exceptional hospitality. Ponte Vedra Inn & Club is proud of the hard work and dedication our staff has demonstrated to earn a Five Diamond Rating for our 16th year running.”

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Sawgrass

Continued from 15

Customers can enjoy seasoned chicken, roasted pork loin, pumpkin ravioli, roasted salmon and more for dinner. The dessert menu features key lime pie, assorted cheesecakes, peach cobbler, tiramisu, chocolate layer cake and warm apple crumble.

In addition to food and drinks, Sawgrass Events also offers electronics for use at events and gatherings, such as LCD projectors, screens, cordless microphones, speaker phones, televisions, DVD/Blue Ray players and more.



Photo by Susan Griffin

Roasted herb chicken with butter-whipped potatoes and sautéed root vegetables in a veal Brandywine demi glaze, which is an example of the cuisine Sawgrass Events can provide its customers

Those interested in Sawgrass Events’ services can call (904) 280-7395 or email ted.hayes@sghgi.com.

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NOCATEE HAPPENINGS

Nocatee community embraces Holbrook Law

By Samantha Logue

As one of many recent additions to Nocatee's growing business community, Holbrook Law has fully embraced its new home, and according to Managing Partner Jason Holbrook, the community is returning the favor.

"It's great," said Holbrook, who resides in Nocatee's Austin Park neighborhood. "The community has embraced us. We have developed a relationship with the community where the folks who have hired us and we've helped with any number of things continue to call back, or they'll send their friends and family. And those are really the strongest recommendations."

Founded in 2012, Holbrook Law specializes in personal injury, wrongful death, estate planning and business law. Prior to founding the firm, Holbrook was the head of the Jacksonville Civil Litigation department at a statewide insurance defense law firm.

"At my prior firm, I did high exposure litigation, mostly defending companies in catastrophic claims, along with a variety of other defensive civil lawsuits," Holbrook said. "When I opened this law firm up, I decided that in addition to continuing to do



Tiffany and Jason Holbrook of Holbrook Law

Photo courtesy of Holbrook Law

what I had been doing, I also wanted to be able to help individuals, families, businesses, etc. with the variety of legal needs that they may have."

Now located at 466 Town Plaza Ave., Suite 310, in Ponte Vedra, the firm has changed addresses several times over the years to account for growth in both business and staffing.

"I originally opened the office in

Jacksonville off of Butler Boulevard.

... I moved into a larger office, and then another larger office, and then in 2015, my family moved out to Nocatee. We loved the neighborhood, the community and everything about it, and then we came across the offices that were being built here, and I thought it was a no-brainer. It was a perfect fit."

For Holbrook, the best part about living

and working in Nocatee is the support of the greater community.

"Even though it's a strange amalgam of people that have migrated their way into Nocatee, including a lot of people from various other parts of the country, it's a great array of backgrounds, but they all come together within the single community," he said. "They band together to support local businesses, stick up for each other and help each other out."

That neighborly spirit, Holbrook said, is something that he tries to incorporate and reflect in his law practice.

"We try to treat what we do more as guiding and counseling folks to get them the correct result that they need, as opposed to billing them for as much as we can get out of them," he explained. "We live here, we work here, and we take great pride in trying to help people the best that we can, and not necessarily taking every penny from them while doing so."

Now, having experienced the community as both a resident and business owner, Holbrook said he is confident he made the right choice in relocating to Nocatee, stating: "It's a great place to live, it's a great place to work and I haven't looked back since."

COASTAL WINE MARKET & TASTING ROOM NOW OPEN LATER

Coastal Wine Market & Tasting Room in Nocatee has changed its hours. The business is now open until 9 p.m. from Tuesday to Thursday, and 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, allowing guests to spend more time at the local establishment. Visit coastalwinemarket.com for more information.

Photo by Susan Griffin

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Crosswater at Nocatee to hold grand opening Feb. 10

The Nocatee community will hold a grand opening event for its newest community, Crosswater at Nocatee, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10.

To be held at the Crosswater Model Park at 36 Village Grande Drive in Ponte Vedra, the event will embrace the new neighborhood's decidedly Americana theme with classic American foods, a vintage car display and a traveling barber shop quartet. Further entertainment will be provided by strolling magicians, stilt walkers and balloon animals, and kids will have the opportunity to enter a 1950s costume contest to win four one-day passes to Disney World.

Crosswater at Nocatee features homes by CalAtlantic Homes, David Weekley Homes, ICI Homes, Providence Homes and Riverside Homes. The community will eventually have almost 500 homes.

During the grand opening event, new designer-decorated model homes will be open for tours, and builders will be on site to answer questions.

For more information, call (904) 924-6863 or visit www.facebook.com/events/1792741860767291.



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110 OCEAN HOLLOW LN



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108 PUTTERS WAY



157 COSTA BLANCA RD



221 GNARLED OAKS DR



328 CLEARWATER DR



40 GLENALBY PL



110 OVERLOOK DR



174 PARADISE VALLEY DR



23 MEDITERRA AVE



101 ANTLER POINT CT



203 CARRIER DR



28 BURLING WAY



117 BELVEDERE PT



146 HARBOURMASTER CT



94 VOYAGER CT



130 CUELLLO CT



165 LINKSIDE CIR



100 FAIRWAY PARK BLVD



130 BERMUDA CT



151 VENETIAN BLVD



108 LAMPLIGHTER ISLAND CT



128 SOLANO CAY CIR



370 12TH ST



108 PLANTERS ROW W



117 TEAL POINTE LN



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394 PELICAN POINT



608 MILLERS DAM CT



831 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



2410 DUNDEE CT



7360 A1A S



748 ALHAMBRA DR S



645 LAKE STONE CIR



1009 BUCKBEAN BRANCH LN W



4401 CYPRESS CREEK DR



8168 SEVEN MILE DR

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413 LABARRE CT



2655 LATRIUM CTR



7062 SNOWY CANYON DR



966 PONTE VEDRA BLVD



2895 S PONTE VEDRA BLVD



8638 MABEL DR



1201 1ST ST N 803



3327 HALEY POINTE RD



8242 ASHWORTH CT



1759 MARITIME OAK DR. S



1060 BELLA VISTA BLVD



10934 READING RD



1793 ATLANTIC BEACH DR



3235 OLD BARN RD W



12411 GENTLE BEN CT



2330 PINE ISLAND CT



6020 BRIDGEWATER CIR



12663 ARROW LEAF LN



1226 SALT CREEK ISLAND DR



4456 HUNTERSTON LN



14652 CRYSTAL VIEW LN



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3 Palms Grille continues implementing small changes to further big transformation of restaurant



Bernard de Raad poses for a photo with customers enjoying lunch at 3 Palms Grille.



ABOVE: Ceiling panels were implemented to reduce noise in the restaurant.

RIGHT: The decorative separation between the bar and restaurant



Photos by Benjamin Naim

By Benjamin Naim

Installing ceiling panels for noise abatement and adding a separation between the bar and restaurant are among the recent changes implemented at 3 Palms Grille.

Owner Bernard de Raad said the restaurant had been receiving complaints about loud noise from the bar, so they wanted to address it. Because the restaurant is an open space, he said sound from the bar area can spill over into the quieter parts of the restaurant.

“Just a week ago we installed ceiling panels and now it’s much, much quieter,” said de Raad. “Usually the No. 1 complaint is not the quality of the food but its ambiance atmosphere, so we take that to heart and that’s what we changed.”

The restaurant has also added a decorative separation between the bar and restaurant to further divide the two spaces.

These renovations are part of the overall transformation of the restaurant, which opened in mid-November 2016. Since the space’s earlier days as simply the Oak Bridge Clubhouse, de Raad said the venue has evolved from a “rundown” locale with a “very dated” atmosphere, to a bustling restaurant with a contemporary feel that he said is busier than ever. The current state of the restaurant is the result of a partnership between Oak Bridge owners Jeff and David Miller, de Raad and his wife Vivian, who also run Cap’s on the Water, and John Nagy and his

wife/partner Karen Thomas, who also run Eleven South in Jacksonville Beach.

According to de Raad, the most unique aspect of 3 Palms Grille is its location between the restaurants involved in the partnership.

“What’s different is that we have two proven restaurants in the area [Caps and Eleven South] where people have an expectation level, and now it’s [Three Palms Grille] a convenient location in the middle,” he said.

While customers from within the Sawgrass gates regularly visit 3 Palms, de Raad noted that residents living outside the community are welcome as well. To be granted entry into the Sawgrass Players Club community, visitors must simply inform security personnel that they’re visiting 3 Palms Grille.

“There’s this stigma attached to being inside the [Sawgrass Community] gates,” de Raad said, “but we’re open to the public.”

De Raad noted that 3 Palms Grille offers a “classy, upscale version of a brunch” featuring crab cake benedict, blackened shrimp hash, steak and eggs, vegetable frittata and more. Its lunch menu offers sandwiches, salads, sliders, flatbreads and other options. For dinner, the restaurant serves main plates such as local flounder, scallops, a New York Strip steak and more.

Visit www.3palmsgrille.com for more information on 3 Palms Grille, which is located at 254 Alta Mar Drive.

Income too high for a Roth IRA? There is still a way!



By Harry Pappas

Columnist

You may think — like many — that because you earn too much money, the door is closed for you to establish and fund a Roth IRA. Despite what you may have heard and believe, there is a

legal way that some folks either do not realize, or perhaps have decided not to take advantage of — a way to dodge the tax man. First, allow me to explain the deductibility limits for the traditional IRA, and then I will get on my soapbox and preach the benefits of having and contributing to your Roth IRA.

If you are single and make over \$73,000 or married and earn more than \$121,000,

you cannot deduct your traditional IRA contribution of up to \$5,500 or up to \$6,500 if you are over 50 years old. Regrettably, many of these so-called “rich folks” assume that since they cannot get the deduction, they will not contribute to an IRA. Shame on the shortsightedness! What about the benefits of tax deferral? Well, that is for another day and another column. Now back to the purpose of this dispatch.

Roth IRAs, unlike traditional IRAs, don’t allow investors to deduct their contributions from their current taxable income. However, what makes a Roth IRA popular is that it allows savers to withdraw their contributions and any gains tax-free in retirement. Yep, grow your money tax deferred and take it out tax free, as long as you meet certain criteria.

However, the problem that so many peeps have is that Roth IRA contribu-

tions are only allowed if one’s modified, adjusted gross income is below a certain level. For single filers in 2018, that income threshold starts at \$120,000 and ends at \$135,000. In that range, your contribution is limited, eventually reaching zero. For married filing jointly filers, that income threshold starts at \$189,000 and ends at \$199,000.

So, if you are fortunate or perhaps, unfortunate to some, to make more than the limits mentioned above, you might think the door is locked and you are out of luck. Nope! There is a way, especially if you have no money in a traditional IRA. Moreover, the process is straightforward and simple, as anyone regardless of income can convert a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. Do you see where I am going with this? You first establish a traditional IRA and fund it with the maximum amount and then you immediately convert it to a Roth.

You do this every year that the technique is available.

Now keep in mind that any earnings in a traditional IRA will be taxed upon conversion. So, if you are really getting this approach and you are beginning to get excited thinking that you will take your existing IRA and convert it to a Roth, you need to calm down, amigo! In the above example, one did not have an IRA. Therefore, since we are converting to a Roth simultaneously from the IRA contribution, there are likely no gains. Thus, there is no tax liability. That, my friends, is the approach to beating the tax man!

Now back to the eager beaver that wants to convert all of his IRA to a Roth. One needs to tiptoe carefully through the arguably treacherous terrain, as one might incur an unexpected tax mess. For



Photos courtesy of Hayworth PR

A rendering displays the plans for the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort.

General manager appointed for Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort

Hospitality Ventures Management Group (HVMG) recently announced the appointment of Jason Kern as general manager of the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort, which scheduled to open this summer.

Kern will oversee the hiring of new staff and day-to-day operations of the resort, which is currently being constructed along the Atlantic shoreline in St. Augustine Beach. The new resort will feature onsite dining, an oceanfront Splash Park, waterfront meeting space and other guest amenities. Key International, a Miami-based real estate investment and development company specializing in hospitality, is the owner and developer of the property.

“Jason is an industry veteran with a tremendous track record of success at upscale beachfront properties on Florida’s easy coast,” said Ron Mader, regional vice president of operations of HVMG. “His skill set and experience make him the ideal choice to manage what is going to be a very special resort in St. Augustine.”

With two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, Kern comes to the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort with a background in hotel operations and management. As general manager of the 212-room, four-diamond Shores Resort & Spa in Daytona Beach Shores, Kern led the property to growth in overall revenue, RevPar and TripAdvisor score. He has established a program encouraging employee teamwork and inclusiveness that resulted in a positive corporate culture at the resort.

A change in ownership at The Shores presented Kern with the opportunity to return to Hammock Beach Resort



Jason Kern

in Palm Coast as the director of sales and marketing, where he had previously worked since 2004. Returning to the property just as Hurricane Matthew struck, Kern quickly adjusted operational efforts to redefine the resort’s experience, exceeding revenue projections.

Kern started his hospitality career at Universal Parks & Resorts, where he served on pre-opening teams for Islands of Adventure and CityWalk, as well as the Hard Rock Hotel and Loews Royal Pacific Resort.

“The local community and our guests are going to be very pleasantly surprised by everything this new resort will have to offer,” said Kern. “We’re building on Embassy Suites by Hilton’s most popular brand amenities and best-in-class service to create something that will exceed all expectations.”

Situated 10 minutes from historic downtown St. Augustine and adjacent to the iconic St. Augustine Pier, the Embassy Suites by Hilton St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort will offer 175

two-room suites providing spacious accommodations appealing to both leisure and business travelers. Each suite will include a private bedroom and separate living area with sofa bed, armchair and well-lit work/dining table, wet bar, refrigerator, microwave and coffeemaker. Other amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi, cable and in-room movies, telephone with voicemail and data port and a laptop-sized safe.

In addition, the resort will feature an infinity-style oceanfront pool and Splash Park for children. The resort will also feature 20,000 square feet of meeting space, including a 5,200-square-foot, oceanfront ballroom with outdoor terraces and expansive waterfront lawns for events.

Guests will enjoy Embassy Suites by Hilton’s free cooked-to-order breakfast and nightly evening reception, but will also have a number of other culinary options from several onsite venues. The resort’s signature restaurant, Harvest & Reel, will feature locally sourced and specialty seafood, served from an open-show kitchen, while the poolside bar and grille will offer Latin-inspired dishes. Within the main lobby area, the upscale Rhum Bar will feature specialty cocktails and Atlantic views, with a full-service Starbucks Cafe and 24/7 market also available.

With Pier Park to the south and Anastasia State Park to the north, resort guests will also find plenty of off-property opportunities to relax, bike ride, surf, fish, paddle board and more. The resort is partnering with local outfitters to provide a variety of guest experiences, such as eco-tours, surf lessons and historical tours of St. Augustine.

For more information, visit www.embassysuites3.hilton.com.

New tax bill to result in alimony deduction tax changes



By Joseph Alvarez, Esq.
Special to the Recorder

Joseph Alvarez, Esq.
Guest Columnist

The new tax bill recently signed by President Donald Trump will soon have a huge impact on alimony payments.

One of the most contested issues in a divorce case, alimony payments are separate from child support, but are usually provided to a spouse earning less income. There is no other way to put it: The spouse paying the alimony (the payor) will forever despise that monthly alimony disbursement.

Most people are unaware that those alimony payments are tax deductible, and this may come as a welcome surprise to the payor. Of course, the receiving spouse (the payee) always had to pay taxes on any support he or she received (yes, husbands sometimes do receive alimony). However, the new tax bill will change this for any new divorce case filed after Dec. 31, 2018.

As of right now, if a divorce case is finalized prior to Dec. 31, 2018, a payor can deduct from his or her taxes the alimony support ordered by a judge or agreed to by the parties. So, when the payor spouse files for his or her taxes, that spouse may seek those alimony payments as tax deductible from his or her total income. (It is imperative to know that the only support that may be deductible is alimony, not child support.)

However, any party filing an original divorce petition after Dec. 31, 2018, will no longer be able to have his/her alimony payments tax deductible. This will apparently add close to \$6 billion in tax revenue over time, a statistic I recently learned in an online tax seminar. Additionally, the payee will no longer have to pay a tax on the alimony he or she receives.

As a family law attorney, when I first read about the alimony deduction tax change, I will admit I was shocked to see that the change went through. But now that I had time to contemplate the change and hear other professional opinions

Janet E. Johnson, P.A.

Criminal Defense Attorney

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

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Here at Zisser Law our qualified legal team is dedicated to your specific case. Elliot Zisser is a Florida Board Certified Marital and Family Law attorney who deals with complex financial, custodial, business, and valuation issues. Mr. Zisser is also a former Florida Chapter President of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers who frequently lectures on important family law matters. Barry Zisser is our Senior Partner who has achieved several awards in Family Law due to his experience gained through his many years of practice. Jonathan Zisser practices significantly in criminal defense and family law, as well as the areas in which those issues intersect. Katherine Johnson and Joseph Alvarez have a strong focus in family law, all while bringing compelling energy and a resilient work ethic to Zisser Law. Please visit www.zisser.net or give us a call at (904) 353-3222 to see how we can help you today.

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Arthur Rutenberg Homes by Mark Refosco and Glenn Layton Homes selected as preferred builders of EvenTide

GreenPointe Communities recently announced that EvenTide's preferred custom homebuilder team will consist of Arthur Rutenberg Homes by Mark Refosco and Glenn Layton Homes.

A new community located at 1044 Ponte Vedra Blvd, EvenTide consists of 23 estate-sized homesites ranging from one-third acre to over one acre and offers private beach access and views of the Guana River.

"The reputation and expertise of our elite builders, combined with the exceptional sales team at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty, align with EvenTide's distinction and exclusivity," said GreenPointe Holdings President and Chief Executive Officer Ed Burr. "EvenTide is a remarkable property, the perfect blend of convenience, sophistication and serenity and one of the most exciting new communities in Northeast Florida."

The preferred builders have created a portfolio of home designs and options that meet every lifestyle. Any new contracts with one of EvenTide's preferred builders will include a price incentive plus a \$50,000 allowance to be applied towards beautifying and enhancing the home's landscaping and outdoor environment.

Founded in 1953, Arthur Rutenberg



Photo courtesy of Clockwork Marketing

EvenTide by GreenPointe Communities has announced its preferred custom builder team. Shown in the photo are Mark Refosco, owner, Arthur Rutenberg Homes by Mark Refosco; Joan Refosco, vice president of sales, Arthur Rutenberg Homes by Mark Refosco; Elizabeth Hudgins, realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; Linda Sherrer, founder, president and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; Edward E. Burr, president and CEO, GreenPointe Holdings, LLC; Lee Elmore, realtor, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty; Katrina Watkins, broker/sales, Glenn Layton Homes; Glenn Layton, president, Glenn Layton Homes.

Homes, Inc. is today one of the largest networks of independently owned and operated luxury homebuilding companies in the nation. Franchise owner and custom home builder, Mark Refosco, brings a vast amount of expertise and a long tradition of refined home building to Northeast Florida.

"We are thrilled to join the team at EvenTide," said Refosco. "We know there are

many buyers who would like to purchase a new construction home that is energy efficient and designed to meet the needs of today's lifestyle. Many buyers do not want to invest the time, effort and money it takes to purchase and renovate an older home or tear down the home and start over. There are very limited opportunities like EvenTide."

As the builder of the HGTV Smart Home 2013, Glenn Layton Homes is building custom homes that bring all the relaxing coastal elements in a connected smart-home that is efficient and unique.

"EvenTide has been thoughtfully planned to highlight the community's pristine Ponte Vedra Beach location and geographical features," Layton said. "This is a rare chance to build a luxury coastal-style home from the ground up in a prestigious new Ponte Vedra Beach community surrounded by majestic Oak trees and offering private beach access across the street."

Homes at EvenTide will offer distinctive innovative designs showcasing the community's signature coastal-eclectic architectural style, natural materials, outdoor living spaces and state-of-the-art home technology. Construction on the homes is planned to start in March 2018 with home and homesite package prices starting at \$1.3 million.

For more information about EvenTide, its available homesites and pre-construction pricing, contact Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Florida Network Realty Realtors Elizabeth Hudgins or Lee Elmore at (904) 285-5499 or visit www.EvenTide-Living.com.

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Pappas

Continued from 22

example, one must pay tax on any pre-tax IRA contributions as well as any gains in the amount converted to a Roth. When calculating the taxable income from a Roth conversion, you must consider all IRAs in your name (including SIMPLE and SEP IRAs). This is true regardless of whether the IRAs are held at the same financial institution.

Basically, one must divide the total of after-tax contributions by the total balance across all IRAs (excluding Roth IRAs) to determine the amount of the conversion that is not taxed. There are other things to consider before converting, such as current and future tax rates, potential investment returns, what the money will be used for and when, income and marital status.

Traditional IRA distributions are taxed as ordinary income. Qualified Roth IRA distributions are not subject to state and local taxation in most states. Qualified Roth IRA distributions are also federal tax-free provided a Roth account has been open for at least five years and the owner has reached age 59½ or meets other requirements. Both may be subject to 10 percent Federal tax penalty if distributions are taken prior to age 59½.

Regrettably, I am afraid that I may have confused more of you than I would like to admit. Nevertheless, please do not ignore the potential to secure what I view as one of the best investment vehicles available today, the Roth IRA! I urge you to speak with your financial and tax advisor to see if this approach is in your best interest.

Remember, it is never the idea that makes one successful, it is the execution. Stated more simply, if we

wait until we feel like doing something worthwhile, we will likely never accomplish it. Let's choose the pain of discipline over the pain of regret and "Git Er Done!"

Harry Pappas Jr. CFP®
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Certified Estate & Trust Specialist™
Certified Divorce Financial Analyst™
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818 North Highway A1A, Ste 200
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Alvarez

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about it, I will admit that a future payor should not think that they are going into their divorce, post-2018, negatively impacted by the new tax law.

In fact, I would guess that post-2018 original divorce cases might be even more difficult on a family law attorney to settle outside the courtroom. For example, under the current alimony deduction, let's say a payor with a yearly income of \$200,000 agreed to pay \$5,000 a month in alimony or \$60,000 a year. The payor would then owe an income tax on \$140,000, and the payee would pay a tax on the \$60,000 received in alimony.

Even though this is an example, it is a good assumption that the payor most likely agreed to pay \$5,000 a month in alimony knowing about the tax deduction. However, this will no longer be an option to that payor should the divorce be filed after Dec. 31, 2018. The new alimony tax rule could affect modifying your alimony in 2019, if you do not have the correct language in the modified agreement or order.

So, take my example and apply it to the new tax law that will be in effect for 2019. Would that payor making \$200,000 a year now agree to pay \$60,000 a year to his or her ex-spouse? Remember that payor will have to pay a tax on \$200,000 as opposed to \$140,000. Will the payor also agree to pay \$5,000 a month knowing that his or her spouse will not pay taxes on the alimony?

My answer, of course, is that it depends on a multitude of other factors, but it is interesting to think, no matter which side you are on, one thing is for certain: This December 2018 will be a busy month for divorce lawyers trying to beat the clock prior to midnight Jan. 1, 2019.

Joseph Alvarez is an associate attorney at Zisser Law, where he specializes in criminal and marital law.

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Palencia Dental launches new treatments and procedures with licensed aesthetician

Stephanie Kinsey, DDS, owner and founder of Palencia Dental in St. Augustine, has announced the newest line of facial treatments and procedures with HydraFacial MD, a patented technology combined with skin nourishing ingredients to restore skin health while minimizing signs of aging and recharging skin with a combination of peptides and other ingredients for fine lines and wrinkles, dark and sun spots and evens out complexion tones, among others.

Florida licensed aesthetician Scheramah Washington has joined the Palencia team to provide the services along with a vast array of skin care specialties and cosmetology services. Washington has more than 13 years of experience and believes in the concept of aging on one's own terms with the advanced benefits of pure, medical-grade products, treatments and procedures created for each client.

Kinsey welcomes Washington to the practice after requests for additional and



Scheramah Washington

more intensive services in facial rejuvenation to compliment a youthful, attractive and healthy smile with minimally invasive oral treatments and virtually pain-free care. Kinsey, her team of dental

professionals and Washington will also participate in continuing education to support the dental practice and aesthetic services.

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SPLASH TAKE HONORS IN UNIVERSAL DANCE ASSOCIATION FLORIDA COMPETITION



Photo courtesy of Ashley Pahlow

The Ponte Vedra High School Dance Team, the Splash, recently placed second in hip hop and third in jazz at the Universal Dance Association Florida competition. Led by coach Tracy Fordham and assistant coach Brittany Snyder, the team is only in its second year of competition.

Author, advocate to discuss online bullying at Ponte Vedra Forum

Sue Scheff, a nationally recognized author, speaker, parent advocate and Internet safety expert, will discuss her book, “Shame Nation: The Global Epidemic of Online Hate,” at the Ponte Vedra Beach Branch Library’s Ponte Vedra Forum program on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.



Sue Scheff

“Shame Nation” explores the phenomenon of online shaming and offers guidance and advice on how to prevent and protect against cyber-blunders and faceless bullies. The book shines a light on the rising trend of online shame culture and empowers readers to take charge of their digital lives.

Scheff is the founder of Parents Universal Resource Experts, Inc., an informational resource that has helped thousands of parents struggling with challenging teenagers.

The Friends of the Ponte Vedra Library present the Ponte Vedra Forum program series as a free service to the community. It is open to the public.

RIGHT: Nick N. and Morgan C. set up an experiment to observe how water travels through a plant.



LOWER RIGHT: Margaret E. and Lilah S. plant grass seed so they can observe how the seeds will grow into grass.



Photos courtesy of Pam Riley

Ocean Palms Elementary students explore plant science

First-grade students in Mrs. Neeti Gregg’s classroom at Ocean Palms Elementary School recently learned all about plants by participating in several hands-on science experiments.

The experiments included planting grass seeds in different environments and observing capillary action at work in celery stalks. In the process, students came to understand the benefits of learning first-hand through observation and trial and error.

“These students are young, but still able to learn about complex science concepts through fun activities,” said Gregg. “Science is all about learning through their own experimentation and sharing results. The more engaged students are, the more they learn.”

Student Margaret E. added, “I like science because we can do experiments, and it is so much more fun than just reading a book!”

OCEAN PALMS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS CELEBRATE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL



The students in Mrs. Neeti Gregg’s first-grade class at Ocean Palms Elementary School celebrated their 100th Day of school Jan. 26. Shown in the photo are Will D., Tyler C., Donovan S. and Xander S.

Photo courtesy of Neeti Gregg

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Photo by Samantha Logue

Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall President Steve Gard (left) and Director Marc Ressler cut the ribbon for the outdoor deck.

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall unveils new terrace

By Samantha Logue

With a champagne toast and a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall's new outdoor deck was unveiled last Friday, Feb. 2. Formally named the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall (FOPVCH) Terrace, the deck will serve as an extension of the concert hall's current concessions area.

Attendees of the event included local officials, Chamber of Commerce representatives and members of the FOPVCH, and each had the opportunity to indulge in drinks, hors d'oeuvres and offerings from food trucks as they explored the new terrace.

"I want to thank everyone who came out tonight, especially the members of the Friends of the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall, without whose generosity this new deck wouldn't be possible," FOPVCH President Steve Gard said. "Our group took about a year to raise \$50,000 to build this deck. It took about two months to build, and it's going to add about 925 square feet to the

lounge area of the concert hall."

With the intention of adding a full outdoor bar to the terrace, a request for a permit to allow the outdoor sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages on the property was recently submitted to the Planning and Zoning Division of St. Johns County. If approved, the bar would help to decrease the noise level in the indoor concessions area during concerts.

"Our lounge area gets rather crowded at times, when we have sold out shows here," Gard explained. "It also gets rather noisy at times, which can disturb the people inside the auditorium, so this will give people a place where they can socialize, talk, have a drink and something to eat while they're here for a show, and not disturb the people that are listening to the music."

Gard also advised that the new non-smoking, outdoor concessions area is not the last of the improvements the FOPVCH has planned for the concert hall.

"What we want to do is raise \$4 mil-

TERRACE continues on Page 33

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ERIC JOHNSON w/ ARIELLE FEBRUARY 20	INDIGO GIRLS MARCH 11	10,000 MANIACS APRIL 25
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Photo courtesy of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Country star Hank Williams Jr. to perform at St. Augustine Amphitheatre April 6

The St. Augustine Amphitheatre will welcome Academy of Country Music (ACM) Entertainer of the Year, Grammy Award-winner and Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Hank Williams Jr. to the stage Friday, April 6.

Williams has sold 70 million albums worldwide and has produced six platinum albums, 20 gold albums, 13 No. 1 albums and 10 No. 1 singles. Marking 52 years since his first album in 1964, he released "It's About Time" (Nash Icon Records) in 2016. In addition to the history-making "Are You Ready for the

Country," the project included new tunes such as "Dress Like an Icon," "Just Call Me Hank," "It's About Time" and "The Party's On," as well as re-recorded versions of classics "Mental Revenge" and "Born to Boogie" with Brantley Gilbert, Justin Moore and Brad Paisley on guitar. "It's About Time" is Williams' 37th album in his five-decade career.

Williams continues to add accolades to an impressive resume, which includes ACM Entertainer of the Year, CMA Entertainer of the Year and BMI Icon, in addition to winning a

Grammy and being inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame. As a touring artist, Williams remains one of the most consistent ticket sellers in music.

Ranging from \$44 to \$129, tickets for the April 6 concert can be purchased at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall box offices, along with VIP "meet and greet" packages. Save on fees by purchasing tickets directly from the box offices. Tickets are also available through www.ticketmaster.com, or by phone at (800) 745-3000.

Bolles middle and lower school students take part in First Coast Honors Choir Festival

Twelve Bolles Middle School chorus singers and two students from the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus participated in the First Coast Honors Choir Festival Jan. 27 under the auspices of the Jacksonville Children's Chorus. Students from 26 different schools in the Jacksonville, Orlando and South Georgia areas joined voices for a repertoire in concert.

Bartram Chorus members chosen for the distinction of participating in the First Coast Honors Choir were: Mary Katherine Asbury, Isabel Bassin, Yancin Chen, Abigale Gartner, Vivien Gibbons, Daniel Ji, Sophia Joyner, Katrina Kirov, Isa Landa, Caylee Padgett and Shruthi Pakala. Meghanne Posick and Maura Waller represented the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus.

The Bolles singers have been working with chorus and music teachers Rachel Clifton and Stacey Posick in preparation for the festival. In addition to helping students learn pieces in varying styles, the teachers also accompanied students to the event.

"The festival provides unique opportunities for students to highlight their wealth of vocal talent while working with outstanding clinicians from across the United States," Clifton said.



Photo courtesy of the Bolles School
Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra Beach Campus students Maura Waller and Meghanne Posick

The guest conductor for the boys' ensemble was Vincent Oakes, the artistic director of the Chattanooga Boys Choir. Oakes, who is president-elect of American Choral Directors Association's 3,000-member southern division, and Middle School Head Mike Drew, were former colleagues at the Baylor School in Chattanooga. Prior to the festival, Oakes came to the Middle School Bartram Campus to spend time with Drew and meet Clifton.

Sandy Holland, the founding and artistic director of Young Voices of the Carolinas, served as director of the girls' ensemble. Holland is a coral clinician and guest lecturer on children's vocal development.

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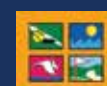
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For more information about these works, the artists, or other works, contact Bob Nickerson at First Coast Artists at 904.280.8187.

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St. Johns Cultural Council's ROWITA ceremony to be held March 11 at Limelight Theatre

The St Johns Cultural Council will hold its ninth annual ROWITA (Recognizing Outstanding Women In The Arts) celebration ceremony March 11 at 6 p.m. at the Limelight Theatre.

Located at 11 Old Mission Avenue in St. Augustine, the free event will be an evening of celebration and recognition of the four women chosen to receive the 2018 Dr. Gail Pflaster ROWITA Award for their achievements and contributions to the arts in St. Johns County. The 2018 honorees are Lynda M. Brandt, Deborah Dickey, Carolyn Juliet Fisher and Laurie Allen Klein.

Brandt has spent her life in the arts, mostly as a self-trained artist. She has taught art classes at the St. Johns County Council on Aging and is a board member of the St. Augustine School of the Performing Arts, a co-founder of Artbreakers and a member of the Ancient City Poets. Her work has been displayed in venues from Paris to London and New York to Laguna Beach. Her paintings are held in private collections around the world, including the portrait of the late President Ronald Reagan, along with portraits of

past Ohio governor George Voinovich and several senators. In 2004, Brandt underwent brain surgery for a rare and usually deadly tumor. After three years of rehabilitation, she returned to painting. Since then, Brandt has donated her time, talent and artwork to fundraisers for numerous local organizations.

Dickey is a playwright and theatre director who received a Master of Fine Arts in acting and directing from the University of Florida. She is a board member of A Classic Theatre in St. Augustine, where she serves as a producer and director. She has a special interest in Florida themes, and her most recent play, "Sweet Emaline: The Musical Journey of Debbie McDade," tells the story of a local artist who achieved fame as a jazz singer. Another play, "Cross Roads: Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Norton S. Baskin in Unguarded Moments," tells the story of two prominent St. Augustine residents. It premiered in 2012 under her direction during the Romanza Festivale. Dickey has served as co-producer for over 20 local productions for A Classic Theatre. She also works as a dramaturg and director of

new play development.

Fisher received a Bachelor of Arts in education from Bethune Cookman University and a master's degree in education from the University of North Florida. She was a school teacher in the St. Johns County School District for 35 years, receiving Osceola Elementary School's Teacher of the Year award in 1998. Her other true passion is singing, and she began ministering through song at a very early age. Fisher has provided her singing talents to many organizations in St. Johns County and can be found singing at churches, weddings, funerals, festivals, schools, birthdays and other celebrations. She has performed at the 30th Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual Breakfast, the 2014 Civil Rights celebration at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church and the 2016 memorial service for the civil rights leader, Dr. Robert B. Hayling. She sang for ACCORD, (Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, Inc.) events from 2004 through 2014.

Klein is a book illustrator and artist whose work has impacted tourism, environmental causes and education

in St. Johns County. Her creations can be found in the hallways and cafeterias of St. Johns County schools, at tourist attractions around the area and on the shelves of local libraries. Klein's artwork has transformed many a drab hallway or cafeteria where her adventurous murals depict ecosystems in exotic places that can't help but spur the imagination of all who see them.

The winners of the Jr. ROWITA Fellowships, a scholarship for graduating high school women who intend to develop their artistic skills through continued study and training, will also be recognized during the ceremony. A reception will follow the ceremony.

The Dr. Gail Pflaster ROWITA is awarded each year to honor the contributions women have made to the artistic environment in St Johns County. It was founded by the late Dr. Pflaster, a local writer and committed arts supporter.

Nominations for the awards come from the public. To submit a nomination for the 2019 awards, visit www.stjohnsculture.com. Applications are due by Dec. 1 of each year.

UNF instructor receives Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award

Visual artist and University of North Florida (UNF) instructor Jim Draper recently received the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award from the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The award, which includes a \$10,000 unrestricted grant, recognizes an artist whose work brings distinction to Northeast Florida, and is named for the late Ann McDonald Baker, whose leadership helped create and nurture such vital cultural gems such as The Community Foundation's Art Ventures Fund, the Arts Assembly (now the Cultural Council) and Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, among others.

The award was presented by Ponte Vedra resident Martha Baker and her sister-in-law, Sally Baker Lee, at a private reception the week of Jan. 29. The award derives from an endowment set up at the Community Foundation by the Baker Family. Martha Baker is chairman of the foundation's Program & Initiatives Committee and Sally Baker was the family representative on the selection panel for the award that Draper received.

For three decades, Draper has created compelling images that highlight the natural world while presenting more complex issues of human existence. He is a UNF instructor of painting and drawing and curator of UNF Galleries. His best-known works include the recent "Feast of Flow-



Photo by laird/blac palm inc.

Martha Baker, Jim Draper and Sally Baker Lee gather after Draper received the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award.

ers" exhibition at the Cummer Museum of Art and Gardens, the "Ribbon of Life" environmental painting at Baptist Medical Center and his "Healing Palms" series.

Draper has created several public art installations, including the glass enclosure

of etched palms at Jacksonville International Airport. His current work includes "Full Immersion," a serial program that explores ways in which the natural order informs structures and behaviors of the human experience, and "The Ditch,"

which he describes as a visual reconciliation of the disturbed landscape.

Draper is primarily known for his depictions of flora and fauna that draw from the state's varied habitats, especially its waterways. He was recently awarded the Fellow Man and Mother Earth award from the Stetson Kennedy Foundation.

"Without question, Jim Draper has been a major force in the North Florida arts scene and has extended his influence by working collaboratively with the wider cultural, environmental and educational communities," noted Nina Waters, president of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. "Like this award's namesake, Ann Baker, Jim Draper has had a far-reaching effect on the causes for which he is most passionate. Our community is substantially richer because of his work."

The selection process for the Ann McDonald Baker Art Ventures Award includes a knowledgeable, anonymous panel of advisors who put forward a short list of finalists after considering a wide range of deserving artists in all disciplines throughout the year. A selection committee (a member of the Baker family, a trustee of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, a representative from the advisory panel and The Community Foundation president) reviews the finalists and names the winner.

Jacksonville Symphony to offer family-friendly fun at Feb. 11 concert

The Jacksonville Symphony, featuring The Florida Ballet, will perform its second family concert of the season, "Appalachian Spring," on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m.

Led by Assistant Conductor Deanna Tham, the family concert will feature Beethoven's "Pastoral" Symphony and Copland's "Appalachian Spring." Beethoven's Sixth Symphony is a musical representation of the composer's admiration for nature. This light and airy Symphony will paint the picture of a stroll through the countryside. "Appalachian Spring" came about when Copland was commissioned to write a ballet that would have "an American theme." Including Copland's famous tune of "Simple Gifts," this work is sure to have recognizable themes throughout.

Pre-concert activities starting at 2 p.m. will feature the Instrument Zoo presented by the Jacksonville Symphony Guild, crafts that are tied to the theme of each concert and a variety of local organizations focused on educating Jacksonville's youth.

The concert will take place in Jacoby Symphony Hall in the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, and the pre-concert activities will take place throughout the Times-Union Center.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call the ticket office at (904) 354-5547 or visit JaxSymphony.org.



Image courtesy of the City of Atlantic Beach

Atlantic Beach accepting poster submissions for jazz festival

Poster submissions for the inaugural jazz festival in Atlantic Beach are now being accepted, and the City of Atlantic Beach is inviting visual artists and photographers in the area to participate.

Submissions will be judged by the Cultural Arts and Recreation Advisory Committee. Those entering submissions must email their work to recreation@coab.us by no later than March 1, 2018 at 4 p.m. The winner will be announced on May 15, 2018.

Submissions must include the artist's name, phone number, mailing address and email address. Only one

submission is permitted per person and per email address.

The winning artist may sell the poster during the event and will be invited to this year's Artisans' Faire in December.

The winning poster will be used in media and for publicity purposes, which will require signature from the winning artist prior to doing so. The artist must acknowledge that the submitted work is of his/her own original work and not the use of a second or third party. The City of Atlantic Beach is not responsible for submissions of such case.

Terrace

Continued from 30

lion to complete the upstairs here, which will add about 250 seats to our capacity ... If we increase our capacity to that level, we can start bringing in the kind of artists that you'll see in Daily's Place, at

the Amphitheatre or at the Florida Theatre. We can have that right here in Ponte Vedra."

St. Johns County Commissioner Jimmy Johns, who announced last week that he will be running for the congressional District 6 seat currently held by Rep. Ron DeSantis, expressed his gratitude and support for all the strides being made

locally to broaden the county's cultural landscape.

"Think about it," he said. "We live in a place that people will save for years to come to visit for a week. They save their entire lives to retire here, but we live here. That is something to celebrate. Thank you for what you are doing to make St. Johns County special."

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THEME: U.S. PRESIDENTS

ACROSS

- Little rascal
- 6th sense?
- Cell status
- Pentateuch
- "To Kill a Mockingbird" recluse
- Most famous hobbit
- Enlighten
- ___-Wan
- Willow tree
- *Smallest President
- *"Oh Captain, My Captain"
- Prepare to shoot
- Tulip's early stage
- Geological Society of America
- Symphony member
- Hank Williams' "Hey Good ___"
- *Pre-election commotion
- Unpleasant road display
- Actress Watts
- Full of enthusiasm
- Musician's exercise
- Seedy source of Omega-3s
- Nine musicians
- What those on the lam do
- Kind of palm
- Threefold
- Accepted behavior
- *Barack Obama's former title
- Toothy tool

DOWN

- Education acronym
- Musical finale
- Extra dry
- Godfather's family
- ___gnomy or ___logy
- Jet black
- Have a bawl
- Southern chicken stew
- CISC alternative
- Hodgepodge
- Cain's brother
- Between dawn and noon
- Candy in Paris
- Spaniard without "h"
- The Jackson 5's "___ Be There"
- Cole Porter's "Begin the ___"
- *He commanded the Union army

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- Enjoy yumminess
- Raspberry drupelets
- *___ of office
- Stumblebums
- Caffeine-containing nut tree, pl.
- *Candidate's concern
- *First US president to resign
- She played a TV genie
- Cocoyam
- Chill-inducing
- Group of foot bones
- One from Laos
- *Inspiration for Liberia's capital
- Beginning of a joke
- India's first P.M.
- Cup of Joe
- Detected by olfactory
- Sword handle
- Brooklyn players
- Happy
- Fly like an eagle
- A fan of
- Gets the picture
- Roman three

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Sports

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018 • PAGE 34

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Ponte Vedra girls blank Paxon in regional quarterfinals

The Ponte Vedra girls soccer team defeated the Paxon School For Advanced Studies 5-0 in the Class 3A regional quarterfinals Tuesday, Feb. 6 at the Shark Tank.

Goal scorers for the Sharks

included Kai Hayes and Lucy Schmachtenberger, both with two goals. The fifth Shark goal came on an "own goal" by Paxon.

The Sharks will go on the road Friday, Feb. 9 for their next match against Stanton.

Ponte Vedra's Reilly Tarbet (22) has good position as she battles the Paxon player for control of the ball during the Class 3A regional quarterfinals on Feb. 6.



ABOVE: Kai Hayes (10) boots in a goal for the Sharks. Hayes scored a pair of goals for Ponte Vedra.

LEFT: Ponte Vedra goalkeeper Kaitlyn Kiel comes out to make a save as the Paxon attacker slides to avoid a collision.

Photos by Jerry and Chris Norton



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Photo courtesy of PVHS wrestling

Sharks Junior Troy Maritato wrestles his Bolles opponent to a 13-3 major decision.

Sharks fall short of Bulldogs in wrestling

Despite storming back in the last three matches of the evening, the Ponte Vedra High School Sharks wrestling team lost to The Bolles School Bulldogs by a score of 42-40 on Wednesday, Jan. 31.

Bolles started with a large lead based on its full lineup at the upper weights. However, the Sharks nearly completed a comeback after a late run left them a millimeter short of tying the match. In the last match of the

evening, Junior Troy Maritato (170 pounds) had his opponent a fraction of an inch from being pinned and tying the score.

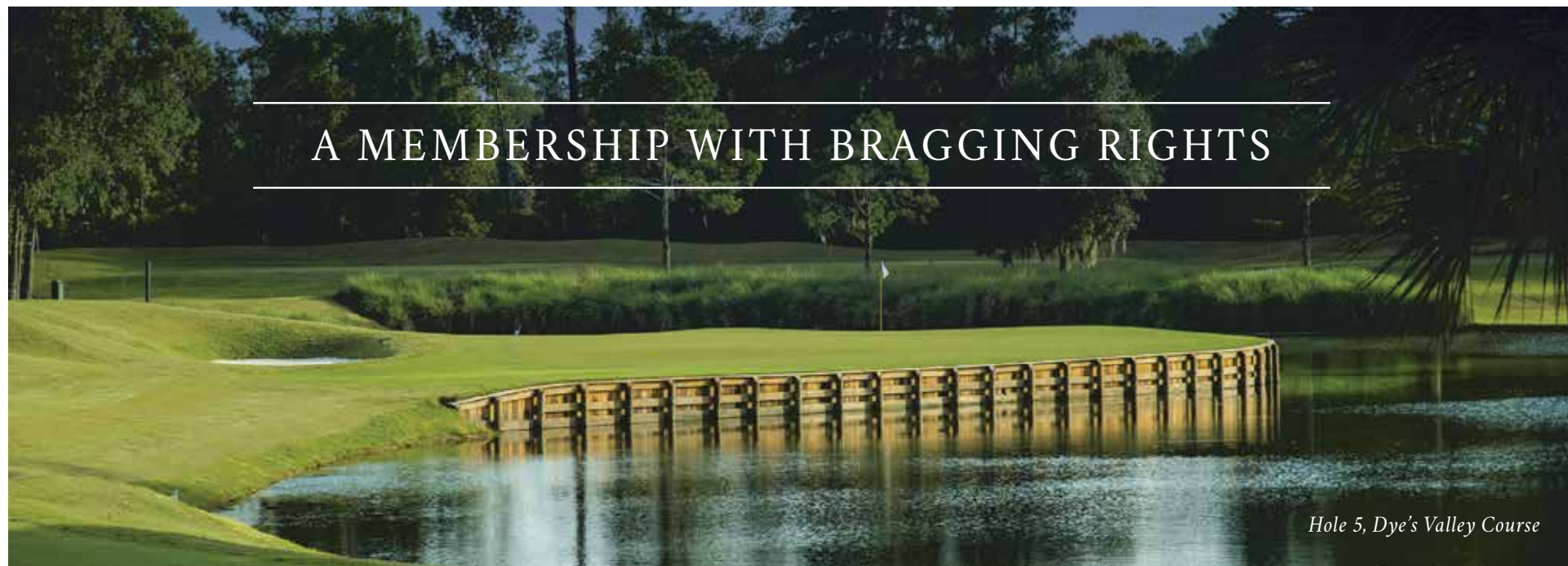
Maritato had to settle for a major decision 13-3. Preceding the final match, Ethan Baur (152 pounds) nailed his opponent with a far side cradle, and Andre Aguiar (160 pounds) muscled his bulldog opponent for the other Sharks pin of the evening.

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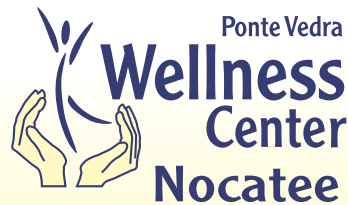
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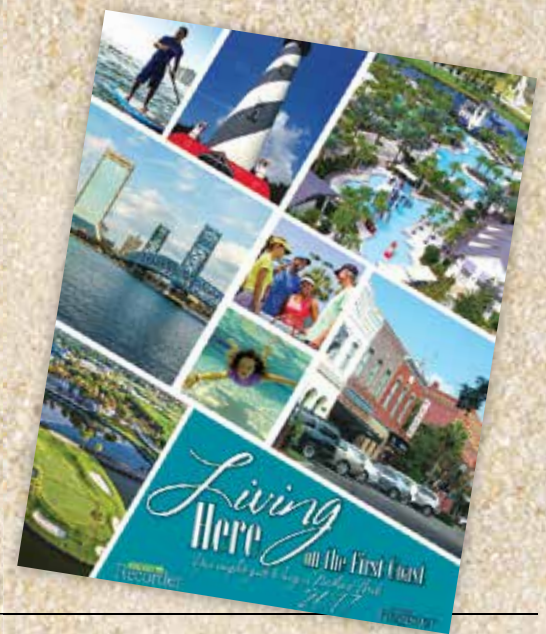
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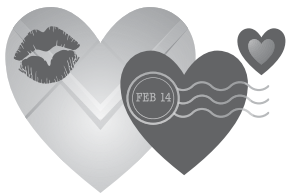
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